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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Criticizes Arab Inaction, U.S. Position

PM1807083389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: One Palestine Is Enough for the Arab Nation. We Cannot Bear Another One in Lebanon"]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has urged efforts to ensure the success of the Arab tripartite committee's endeavors to resolve the Lebanese crisis and expressed regret that no meetings have been held between Syria and the PLO. It was hoped tht such meetings would take place after the Casablanca Arab summit conference.

'Arafat called on the U.S. Administration to submit clarifications to the Arab leaders regarding its position on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election proposals, particularly since Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly's statement to Congress a few days ago.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at his headquarters in the Tunisian capital at dawn yesterday, 'Arafat appealed to all influential states to work for the success of the Arab Tripartite Committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis. He said: One Palestine is enough for the Arab nation. We Arabs cannot bear another Palestine in Lebanon.

He expressed regret that no meetings have been held between Syria and the PLO. He added: Such meetings were supposed to take place after the Casablanca conference and my meeting with President al-Asad.

In reply to a question on the Palestinian peace initiative, President 'Arafat said: So far as the PLO is concerned, the Palestinian peace initiative is not a tactical move. It is a strategic plan, despite our certain knowledge that the enemies do not want peace.

The Palestinian president, speaking in the presence of some of his advisers, said: "Does this mean that the U.S. Administration, 5 days after the declaration, is clinging even more to that plan to strike at the intifadah [uprising], the Palestinian people, and the peace initiative? Was Kelly making his statement of his own free will and in his own personal capacity, or in the name of the U.S. Administration? I say that the U.S. Administration should give the Arab nation and the Arab leaders an explanation of that new U.S. move which, to quote his statement, wholeheartedly adopts Shamir's plan and the crimes against the Palestinian people.

Asked about his recent meeting with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo and whether it dealt with the Israeli position, President 'Arafat said: I did not go to Cairo to discuss with President Mubarak the attitudes of Shamir or any other Israeli official. I was there on an official visit with a specific program which included discussion of the situation at the Arab, local, and international levels in relation to the Palestinian question, particularly since the extraordinary summit conference in Casablanca. We also discussed a number of Egyptian-Palestinian bilateral issues.

On the chances of an international conference in the wake of the latest Likud stance, Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] said: The U.S. Administration is still reluctant on this matter, although U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did hint in Brunei that his administration might go for the international conference option. We hope that this possible threat to the Israeli Government is a part of the U.S. strategy, particularly as the convocation of an international conference is an Arab demand clearly indicated in the recent Arab summit resolutions. It is also an international demand, as reflected in the EC Madrid statement and the socialist bloc statement in Bucharest, and before that in the statements of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference, the African foreign ministers' conference, and the Afro-Arab committee. They all called for an international conference. That is in addition to the UN General Assembly resolutions, including Resolution 174 issued by the extraordinary session held in Geneva and passed by 138 votes against the 2 votes of the United States and Israel.

On the Fatah congress scheduled for 28 July, the Palestinian president said: We will not talk about the congress before it is held.

In reply to a question about the continuation and escalation of the Palestinian intifadah, Abu-'Ammar said: "The hopes we pin on the stone-throwing children can move mountains. It is the duty of the brothers in some Arab states who have not honored their aid commitment to act."

He added: "The PLO is still making earnest efforts and contacts with the confrontation states in the interest of coordination and preparation for an international conference in accordance with the Casablanca summit resolutions, and also trying to set a date and name a venue for a meeting of Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian representatives."

Without being specific, the Palestinian leader said that he was not at all surprised by the extremist declarations made by Shamir at the Likud conference because, as expected, the main purpose of his plan was to try to gain time and provide a cover for the Israeli crimes under glittering slogans and titles such as elections. That slogan has had an effect on Western circles, which forget that elections and democracy are things of which all sectors of the Palestinian people are proud.

President 'Arafat asked: "Could there be elections without democracy, and could there be democracy under occupation, or democracy without the right of self-determination?"

He added: We have addressed all these questions to and gotten no answers from U.S. officials, who have recently surprised us with John Kelly's statement to Congress in which he strangely and wrongly adopted Shamir's plan, fully and wholeheartedly, exactly 5 days after Shamir accepted the intransigent and extremist line dictated by the butcher Sharon.

'Arafat on Lebanon, Kelly Remarks, Peace Plan

JN1707170789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has called for enabling the higher Arab tripartite committee to succeed in its efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem. He said that one Palestine is enough for the Arab nation.

In statements to the press published in Jeddah today, brother Yasir 'Arafat urged the U.S. Administration to clarify to the Arab countries' leaders its position toward terrorist Zionist Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially after the recent position declared by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, before the U.S. Congress a few days ago.

Regarding the Palestinian peace initiative, brother Yasir 'Arafat said: This initiative is not a tactical plan for the PLO, but a strategic plan, although we are fully aware that the enemies do not want peace.

PLO Reportedly Sends Memo on Kelly Statement

LD1707212189 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The PLO has sent an official memorandum to the U.S. Administration on John Kelly's assertions during his recent statement before the Europe and Middle East Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee which implied retraction, contradiction, and an attempt to give new interpretations to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, a dialogue which was described from the beginning as substantive and not a cover for the Israeli political maneuvers and the continuation of its terrorist and repressive practices. It is particulary important that Mr Kelly's statement came following the outcome and the resolutions at the Likud's Central Committee recent meeting.

The memorandum was delivered by brother Hakam Bil'awi, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Tunis, to the U.S. ambassador, who had talks with brother Hakam on the PLO's stance and its initiatives to push foreward the peace march, as well as on Israel's intransigent and antipeace stance.

Reconsideration of PLO Position Possible

JN1707114189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jul (WAKH)—A prominent Palestinian official has warned that the PLO will reconsider its political stance, although based on a full conviction and strategic grounds, if Washington and Moscow adopt the Israeli stance on the Middle East crisis.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published in Abu Dhabi today, Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and head of the Palestinian foreign relations committee, said that if the Palestinian leadership finds that its political stance maintains positive progress in the international community, especially with the two superpowers, "this means that we will continue to pursue this policy, even if progress is slow; but if we find that the U.S. and Soviet positions support the Israeli stance in a manner that deprives our position of substance, we, naturally, must reconsider our stand."

Khalid al-Hasan affirmed that the Arab position is the forward base of Palestinian policy. He asserted that any deviation from the Arab base is political suicide.

Al-Hasan explained that the resolutions adopted by the PLO in Algiers are a compilation of all Palestine National Council resolutions since 1974. He said the PLO Algiers resolutions conform to the policy of international detente as well as the blessed intifadah [uprising].

Further on Reconsideration

NC1707115189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called on the U.S. Administration to clarify its stand on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement published by the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Palestinian president asserted that the Palestinian peace steps are not tactical, but are rather part of a strategic plan despite Israel's rejection of peace.

In the meantime, Khalid al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee member, has warned that the Palestinian leadership will reconsider its decisions concerning peace if Washington and Moscow support the Israeli stands.

PLO Receives EC Message on W. Bank Situation

JN1707201489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Brother Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], director general of the PLO Political Department, has met at the department's office in Tunis with the French ambassador to Tunisia in France's capacity as head of

the EC. The ambassador handed brother Abu-Ja'far an official message in the name of the EC on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the escalation of the Zionist acts of repression and violence against the masses of our Palestinian people and their heroic intifadah [uprising]. These acts are represented by murder, mass arrests, and deportation of Palestinian strugglers from their homeland.

The message criticizes the decisions of the Likud Central Committee and the four points it adopted on the so-called Shamir plan. It considers this a major obstacle to peace and political settlement.

'Arafat Condemns 'Horrendous Crime' in Mecca

LD1407172189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, 14 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a cable from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in which he expressed his condemnation of the criminal act to which holy Mecca was exposed on the evening of last Monday [10 July]. He also expressed the solidarity of the Palestinian people and their standing alongside the Kingdom.

Following is the text of the cable:

King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques:

Blessed greetings.

I heard with utmost sorrow the news of the horrendous crime to which our holy places in holy Mecca were exposed, a crime which was committed by criminal hands that fall outside the principles of our noble religion and the teachings of our bountiful prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. We had warned against some of these acts committed by criminal hands.

In the name of our Palestinian Arab people and in the name of our brothers who are members of the PLO Executive committee, I would like to express to the custodian of the two holy mosques and to the people of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia our utter condemnation of this vile criminal act.

We reaffirm to you our solidarity and standing alongside you, and pray to God to crown your steps and efforts with success and prosperity, to the benefit of our Islamic motherland.

God bestow you with success and health, and may God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.

Bush Said Lacking Clear Policy on Mideast

LD1607202389 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Brothers, we will not be wrong if we say that the administration of the U.S. President George Bush is still lacking a clear and specific policy toward the Arab-Zionist conflict and on how to launch the peace process in the region.

Everything issued by the U.S. Administration, in general, and by Secretary of State James Baker, in particular, is nothing more than a repetition of a number of stances to which consecutive White House administrations since 1967 have committed themselves: The principle of land in exchange for peace, the security of Israel, the concept of direct negotiations, the acceptance of the political rights of Palestinians, the rejection of the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, and all the other statements we heard from the administrations of Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan.

While the United States demanded that the PLO and the Arab world should accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, it now says that it cannot obtain Israeli acceptance of the principle of land in exchange for peace. It might be easy for the United States to exert pressure on the Arab side for several reasons, but this is not the concern of this article. However, the United States saying that it was not able to obtain Israeli acceptance of applying UN Security Council Resolution 242 indicates that it behaves like a partner of Israel and not as someone who tries to play the role of an intermediary.

In our opinion, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's adoption of tortoise diplomacy, or what is called reflection and nonextremism, in the end supports preserving the status quo and not international efforts to launch the peace process.

The situation in the occupied territories, in particular, and in the Middle East in general, requires concentrated and quick efforts to stop the region from reaching the point of no return. Here we are not talking about a race between a wise tortoise and a mad rabbit, but about a race between a tortoise, which is trying to learn how to walk, and a bullet which cannot be stopped after the trigger is pulled.

Fatah Congress Reportedly To Convene 28 Jul

JN0807083089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Jul (WAKH)—Today's Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD says that the fifth congress of the Fatah Movement will convene in Tunis on 28 July and that the Fatah Central Committee has reached a final agreement on this date. Citing a Palestinian source, AL-ITTIHAD says that this congress will increase the

central committee members from 15 to 20. Thus, 10 members will join the central committee, which lost five members, who either died or split from the movement.

'Abd-Rabbuh Reviews Dialogue With U.S.
PM1707141889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jul 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Abd-Rabbuh Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Washington's Position Positive But Insufficient"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee Member and head of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he has briefed Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on the latest international developments related to the Palestinian question, particularly after the recent decisions by Likud, the ruling bloc in Israel, and also on the contacts made by the Palestinian leadership, including the Palestinian meetings in Moscow at the end of last month.

The discussions also covered relations with West Europe and urgent matters affecting the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, in preparation for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo after 'Id al-Adha.

He praised the efforts made by Egypt and President Mubarak for the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to their own state, and for an early international peace conference.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 'Abd-Rabbuh said that his talks in Egypt as representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] were held in the context of the advanced and positive Egyptian-Palestinian relations and reflected the development of these relations and both sides' desire to further strengthen them in the interest of the Palestinian struggle and the attainment of a just peace in the region.

He said that DFLP Leader Nayif Hawatimah will visit Egypt next month.

On the U.S. decision to raise the level of its dialogue with the PLO, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We do not care about raising the level of the dialogue with the United States. What is important to us is that the standard of the U.S. political position should be raised, particularly to the point of recognizing our people's right to self-determination and independence under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate rep esentative. That would develop and raise the political and official level of the dialogue with the United States.

On the Likud's recent decisions, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that these decisions have not destroyed the peace process but have destroyed the illusion and the lie that Shamir had a peace plan.

Answering a question about the latest developments in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, he said: We see the dialogue with the United States as part of the preparations for an international conference. It is undoubtedly a complicated process. The only positive development is perhaps the fact that we have begun discussing fundamental issues, though I cannot say at this point that the dialogue has made sufficient progress. The commencement of the peace process requires the definition of the basis to ensure the process' success.

He added: Some stands taken by the United States are important, such as the declaration that it was necessary to end the occupation and exchange land for peace, but to this day the United States still avoids giving a clear definition of what it calls the Palestinian people's political rights. We cannot accept anything less than self-determination. Positive as they are, these U.S. stands are not enough, because so far they have not become a policy in practice. Furthermore, these stands and statements cannot be reconciled with the statements sometimes made that Shamir's plan is positive or that it is a good basis for starting the peace process.

On elections in Israel, he said: Elections in Israeli [occupied territory] must be a part of a comprehensive peace process. Democratic practice cannot be separated from freedom for the entire people. We too agree to and demand elections, provided they are linked to ending the Israeli occupation. There can be no freedom and no democracy under the devastating occupation that has assailed the Palestinians. The world only has to see all the Israeli repressive measures, including the arrest of over 35,000 Palestinians, killing, and deportation, to realize what kind of promised democracy can be achieved under occupation.

As far as we are concerned, the most important thing is not the conditions for elections but knowing what the elections would lead to. Would they result in ending the occupation or in giving it legitimacy, as desired by Shamir through his plan, the objectives of which he fully explained in the latest Likud resolutions. Shamir has set such preconditions as ending the intifadah [uprising], the confirmation of Israel's sovereignty over occupied Jerusalem, the rejection of a Palestinian state, the refusal to negotiate with the PLO, and the continued building of settlements. To him, elections are a cover for that expansionist policy and the fait accompli.

'Abd-Rabbuh continued: We put forward the intifadah's political program in the face of the Israeli Government's program of repression, terrorism, and continued occupation. The intifadah will continue and will escalate until there is more awareness in the world that the only way out is a political solution within the framework of an

international conference. We do not want lengthy confrontation, but at the same time we do not shy away from the responsibilities of such a confrontation. Therefore, while we work for an urgent international conference, our people are preparing for a long confrontation and the worst eventualities. Our struggle proceeds in a new international atmosphere conducive to solving complex international and regional problems. That is an important factor in the interest of Palestine and its struggling people.

Providing clarifications regarding the international conference, he said: Perhaps preparations will be completed this year, in the light of numerous old but still perfectly valid proposals. Preparations could take place at various levels, including a meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council and contacts and dialogues between the various sides concerned with the conflict, including the PLO and the Israeli Government, in accordance with the Egyptian proposal rejected by Israel. The main obstacle in the way of an international conference, or, rather, in the way of any progress in the peace process, is the Israeli position.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized that it is now clear to many world states and political groupings that the only way to deal with Israeli fanaticism, intransigence, and arrogance is to exert continuous, direct, and open pressure, if the peace process is to begin and end well, and also to support the Palestinian peace initiative, which is based on international legitimacy. 'Abd-Rabbuh left Cairo yesterday.

Al-Quds Radio on Avoiding Israeli 'Jamming'

JN0707163689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, O our people in Palestine, during the past period, the Zionist enemy has stepped up its jamming of your radio, Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man. It has increased the strength of the whistle that it uses in its long-distance jamming of our transmission. It has also increased the strength of the equipment used to jam our transmission on the medium-wave 702 khz.

O brother strugglers, O our people in Palestine and the diaspora, this action against your radio is not new. Since the 1st month of our transmission, the enemy has been jamming Al-Quds radio on a large scale. However, the new thing is the stepping up and the continuation of jamming. O brother strugglers, in order to receive our transmission better and decrease the Zionist enemy's jamming, our radio technicians advise you to follow one of the following:

1. Extend a long antenna in a northeastern direction.
2. Change the position of the radio set. It is preferred that the radio set be in a vertical position.
3. Move the radio set to a corner that will allow the best possible reception of our transmission.
4. Place an aluminum container on the radio set and move the container closer to or further from the radio set to get better reception.

O brother strugglers, O our people everywhere, the Zionist enemy is stepping up its jamming of Al-Quds radio because it is against the truth and against the firm, principled stand of Al-Quds radio. God is with us, victory is near, and we go together on the path of liberating land and man.

Algeria

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Algiers 17 Jul

LD1707122189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived in Algiers this morning. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Rabah Bitat, speaker of the National People's Assembly.

At the VIP hall in the airport Yasir 'Arafat stated that his visit to Algeria falls within the framework of constant consultation with the Algerian brothers at the head of whom is brother President Chadli Bendjedid, particularly at this significant period and in light of current developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

Meets With President Bendjedid

LD1807084989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, held lengthy talks in Algiers this morning with President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Republic, on the latest developments of the situation in the Palestinian, Arab, and international scenes, in addition to the situation inside the occupied territories and the growth of the wanton repression carried out by the occupation forces against the sons of our people. Brother Abu-'Ammar briefed his brother Chadli Bendjedid on the outcome of his tour in South Asian countries. The meeting was attended, on the Palestinian side, by brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department and Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] member of the Fatah Central Committee; on the Algerian side, by Boualem Bessaieh, the foreign minister, and Larbi Belkheir, director of the President's Office. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Paris Paper Interviews Mubarak on Relations

PM1707114889 Paris LE FIGARO in French 13 Jul 89 p 4

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by correspondent Charles Lambroschini; date, place not given]

[Text] [LE FIGARO] Many French people on the right and the left are criticizing their government for insulting the poor countries by the luxury of the bicentennial celebrations and the summit of the seven richest countries. Are you shocked too?

[Mubarak] We do not view these two events from the angle of opposition between the rich and poor countries. We do not feel sensitive about that. The important thing in our view is to establish a dialogue based on cooperation between the rich and poor. If the rich do not grant their assistance, the poor will have to reduce their purchases. That would mean the industrialized north selling less to the poor countries: It will experience recession and widespread unemployment.

When oil was $40 a barrel, Egypt was able to repay a large part of its debt by exporting its own production. Conversely, when the oil price dropped, Egypt was no longer in a position to do so. The conclusion is obvious: The rich must help the poor to ensure that the wheel keeps turning.

[LE FIGARO] In Egypt over the past few years, many people said: "Al-Nasir gave the Suez Canal back to Egypt, Al-Sadat sent his army back across the canal and then signed a peace agreement with Israel. Mubarak, however, has merely built highways in Cairo." But Egypt is now once again accepted by the Arab League, it is going to chair the OAU [Organization of African Unity], it no longer has any dispute with Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya.... Do these victories make the comparison with your two predecessors less overwhelming for you?

[Mubarak] You are comparing things which cannot be compared. Circumstances were different in Al-Nasir's days and also in Al-Sadat's days. The situation today is nothing like it was then. Al-Nasir liberated the country from foreign domination. Al-Sadat made peace with Israel. I started the country's internal rebuilding. In 1981, when I became president, there were no roads, no railroads, the telephone network did not work, the drains were dilapidated or even nonexistent, agricultural production was inadequate, and industry had to be modernized. At the same time, I had to work on the country's political transformation. I had to deal with human rights and building democracy in Egypt. The rebuilding of the country was the most difficult stage.

[LE FIGARO] By agreeing to Egypt's resuming its seat at the Arab League last month at the Casablanca meeting, did the other members not retrospectively recognize that Al-Sadat was right?

[Mubarak] Al-Sadat dared to take a very bold and very courageous initiative for peace. History will recognize that he saved thousands of men who would otherwise have been killed in more wars. Most of the Arab heads of state were not against Al-Sadat. But, at the time, his action struck them as so extraordinary that they were unable to accept it. The moderate leaders had to follow the more extremist ones.

[LE FIGARO] At the Casablanca meeting, you began by adopting very firm positions on Lebanon. You warned the other Arab League members that if they did not find a solution to the problem themselves, the settlement would eventually be internationalized, with a UN intervention into the bargain. But, in the final analysis, nothing really specific emerged from your discussions.

[Mubarak] Since the start of the conflict, we have not changed our principles on Lebanon. We are opposed to the occupation of Lebanon, we are opposed to the presence of foreign forces in that country, be they Syrians, Israelis, or Iranians.... We want an independent Lebanon. We worked very hard in Casablanca to achieve those objectives. A special committee comprising three heads of state was given a mission. There is a 6 month mandate. If, at the end of that period, it has not achieved results, the affair will be submitted to a summit of Arab countries. And I do not think that summit will simply make do with accepting that Lebanon should remain in its present state.

[LE FIGARO] Seen from outside, the impression is that Syria emerged victorious.

[Mubarak] Syria gained nothing, it did not win a victory against anybody. I expressed my opinion publicly and I explained it face-to-face with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Some people think that the Syrian troops in Lebanon are not foreign forces. I insisted that the Syrian soldiers must leave.

[LE FIGARO] The Americans seem to be very indulgent toward Syria. Their priority is apparently the Israeli-Arab conflict. They do not want to be on bad terms with Syria by placing too much emphasis on Lebanon because they hope to persuade Damascus to join the settlement process. Do you share that analysis?

[Mubarak] If the Americans have really taken that gamble, I say that they have made a mistake. There can only be a comprehensive settlement. You cannot start by solving the Palestinian problem and then deal with Lebanon. The two affairs must be tackled at the same time. It is impossible to solve the Lebanese problem without solving the Palestinian problem. It is impossible to solve the Palestinian problem without solving the Lebanese problem. I repeat: If this is the Americans' analysis, they will not achieve anything.

[LE FIGARO] Is General 'Awn a visionary patriot? Or by attacking numerically superior Syrian forces, has he not proved to be a naive man who is killing people for nothing?

[Mubarak] He is a Lebanese fighting for his country's independence. He is therefore a patriot. But there are patriots in the other camp, too.

[LE FIGARO] The Syrians say that they have nothing to do with the present fighting, that the clashes are only between Lebanese factions, Christians against Muslims....

[Mubarak] I do not agree. The two religions must not be opposed. There are human beings on both sides, they are all Lebanese. Previously, the faithful from the two religions lived side by side with no problems.

[LE FIGARO] What is your opinion of President al-Asad?

[Mubarak] He is his country's leader. He is a patriot. He is a friend; I know him very well. I acted as mediator between Al-Sadat and him each time they had conflicts. But I could only discuss any aspect of his policy privately with him. I cannot criticize another Arab head of state in the press.

[LE FIGARO] Is this not partly solidarity between former pilots? You both graduated from the Air Force school.

[Mubarak] Not exactly. He was junior to me. But he has been head of state much longer than I have. But he was junior to me in the Army. I was already a chief instructor when he was still just an ordinary lieutenant. I told him at the Casablanca summit that he could have been my student.

[LE FIGARO] When you were both in uniform, it was he who saluted you first.

[Mubarak] I was a major, he was a lieutenant... it was he who saluted first. But, of course, I returned his salute.

[LE FIGARO] Is it this difference in rank which explains the difference in your policies?

[Mubarak] Al-Asad was a pilot on night fighters. He flew at night but not during the day and only for 15 or 20 minutes in each sortie. I was a bomber pilot. I flew both during the day and at night. And I flew for very long periods. That is the difference between Al-Asad and I.

[LE FIGARO] What was your reaction to the joint communique which Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachev devoted to Lebanon after their Paris meeting?

[Mubarak] That communique corresponds precisely to the ideas which we expressed in Casablanca, even if the Paris text only makes an indirect allusion to the problem of foreign forces by referring to the possibility of resorting to the UN Security Council. We constantly return to the fundamental principle: Foreign troops must be withdrawn to allow the different Lebanese factions to solve the national problem without foreign interference.

[LE FIGARO] What is the state of your relations with the Israelis?

[Mubarak] When I succeeded Al-Sadat in 1981, half of Sinai was still occupied by Israel. Egypt has reestablished its sovereignty over the whole of Sinai: The final stage took place this year with the recovery of Taba. And the peace agreements with Israel were then maintained.

[LE FIGARO] Shamir seems to have aligned with the hardliners in his party—the Likud—with regard to the plans for elections on the West Bank and in Gaza, so

much so that Labor Party leader Shi'mon Peres is threatening to leave the coalition. Do you still believe there is a chance of some arrangement on the occupied territories?

[Mubarak] Frankly, I no longer understand anything about what is happening in Israel and I cannot predict what will happen. Shamir put forward an Israeli initiative. We made our observations and expressed a number of reservations. The Americans did likewise. The same is true of the Palestinians. Since then, there has been a Likud convention at which new ideas were put forward, but the government does not accept them. We can only take into account proposals ratified by the government. There is confusion in Israel today.

[LE FIGARO] Can Shamir be the man who brings about a final settlement to the Israeli-Arab conflict? Or do you think that, to achieve that objective, the Israelis will have to be led by somebody else?

[Mubarak] Peace could be concluded by anybody. If you want to do something, you can. I am sure that the Israeli people want peace.

[LE FIGARO] Shamir's problem seems to be that he must satisfy conflicting interests. He must please the Likud's right wing to remain boss within his own party. But he must also give pledges to Peres' Labor Party to safeguard his coalition government.

[Mubarak] If that is the situation, I think that we will never find a solution. Peace must not be an issue for the Likud alone or for the Labor Party. Peace concerns all Israeli citizens and the whole region.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think that Shamir is in the same mold as Begin? Like Al-Sadat, Begin dared to choose a bold course. In Camp David, he broke with his own past to speed up a compromise.

[Mubarak] Begin was a different man. He was very tough. But we were able to negotiate with him and reach a peace treaty. For the time being we have not achieved anything with Shamir.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think that Shamir could become as important a historical figure as Begin and take the final step toward a comprehensive settlement?

[Mubarak] As important a figure as Begin...I do not wish to make personal criticisms.

[LE FIGARO] But Shamir's reservations are not the only thing. There are also the reservations expressed by the PLO and 'Arafat.

[Mubarak] Whether you like him or not, 'Arafat is both the strongest and most moderate element in the PLO. So, in making peace, we must not ignore his goodwill. He has made many concessions. It is Israel's turn to respond. If we go back to the first Israeli-Arab war—the 1948 war—I recall that it was Israel which was making proposals and the Arabs who always said no. Now that the Arabs accept what they constantly rejected since 1948, it is the Israelis who are saying no. My fear is that for the next 40 years the Arabs will say yes and the Israelis no.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think that George Bush is prepared to take initiatives to persuade both the Israelis and the PLO?

[Mubarak] The U.S. Administration is working very hard and in the right direction. For the first time, the United States has insisted on the fact that territories must be exchanged for peace. The Americans also said that an international conference is "the only appropriate structure" for solving the Israeli-Arab conflict. George Bush has only been in power for 6 months, but he has done a great deal.

[LE FIGARO] What about Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Mubarak] The United States and the Soviet Union have a common interest in solving the problem. Gorbachev represents a great change compared with his predecessors. His ideas are much more practical.

[LE FIGARO] What is your view of Egypt's role in Africa?

[Mubarak] Our role has not changed since Al-Nasir's day. We have good relations with the Africans throughout the continent. Egypt's forthcoming accession to the OAU chairmanship is an indication of Egypt's role in Africa.

[LE FIGARO] You seem happy that in neighboring Sudan Prime Minister Al-Mahdi has been overthrown by the military.

[Mubarak] I cannot deny it. Sudan was going from bad to worse. Al-Mahdi did nothing. While the country was experiencing famine, his first gesture, when he came to power, was to pay his family huge allowances. To end the civil war, an agreement was reached with the rebels in the south in November 1988. But we had to wait until March for Al-Mahdi to decide. [sentence as published]

[LE FIGARO] You have been in power for nearly 8 years. Are you not afraid that you will grow tired?

[Mubarak] I felt at ease from the first day. It is very difficult to irritate me. My character is one of great patience. It would be easy for me to make you nervous, but it would be very difficult for you to make me nervous.

[LE FIGARO] In short, do you apply your pilot's qualities to your job as a politician?

[Mubarak] It is true, in my work I possibly still act as a pilot. I have to work very quickly. A pilot has to fly a long way very quickly.

Papers Interview Mubarak

NC1207190089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent an appeal for peace to the international community, in which he urged all countries to do their utmost to bring about peace in all parts of the world so that all nations can live a normal life and can cooperate among themselves for the sake of the well-being of mankind.

In his appeal to the world countries before leaving for Paris tomorrow, Thursday, to attend France's celebrations marking the bicentennial anniversary of the French Revolution, President Mubarak emphasized that peace is the rule and anything else is an exception.

This came in a comprehensive interview on timely issues, both domestically and abroad, which President Mubarak gave to Mr Samir Rajab, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Dar-al-Tahrir establishment for printing and publication and chief editor of the Egyptian newspaper AL-MASA', and Mr Khalid Bakir, chief editor of the Egyptian newspaper LE PROGRES EGYPTIEN, due to be published tomorrow, Thursday.

In the interview, President Mubarak lauded Egyptian-French relations and his friendship with French President Francois Mitterrand. He asserted that all his moves abroad and his meetings with the world leaders are for the sake of Egypt's people and the causes of its Arab nation.

President Mubarak pointed out that Egyptian and French views are consistent on the Middle East problem and on the need for the Palestinian people to acquire their right to life.

He disclosed that, during his talks with the world leaders who will participate in France's celebrations, he will emphasize the importance of stability in the Middle East and the convocation of an international conference, to be attended by the parties concerned. He remarked that this conference is nothing more than an umbrella, after which direct negotiations could be held.

Within this context, President Mubarak affirmed that the PLO had done all it could in demonstrating good intentions but Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the opposite side is pursuing a different path.

Therefore, the president said, he is not optimistic about the convocation of an international peace conference this year but he hinted at the likelihood of convening such a conference next year.

President Mubarak described the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue as encouraging and progressing despite everything, noting that there has been a tangible progress in the American-Palestinian dialogue.

Commenting on Egypt's stand on the events in Sudan, President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt will never forsake the Sudanese people and that Egypt is very concerned about their interest. He wished the new regime in Sudan every success in solving the Sudanese citizen's economic and social problems.

Concerning Egyptian-Arab relations, President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt had never separated itself from the Arabs. He maintained that the recently established Arab groupings will pave the way in the future for establishing an integrated pan-Arab project, provided these groupings carry out their work very carefully and without rashness, since the Arab world cannot endure abrupt changes.

To a question about his nomination to the OAU chairmanship during its next session scheduled for 24 July in Addis Ababa, President Mubarak expressed his appreciation for the brother African leaders' insistence on nominating him. President Mubarak declared that he has decided to respond to their request, stressing that Arab-African cooperation is the objective of all the Arab and African peoples and that Arab-African security is indivisible.

Concerning the Nonaligned Movement, President Mubarak affirmed that the movement alone is qualified to carry out its duty concerning the well-being of mankind.

In answer to a question about the debt issue, President Mubarak again urged the international community to speed up the solution of the debt problem, which is a heavy burden on developing countries. He warned against the grave consequences which will affect everyone without exception if the debtor nations are left the easy prey of the creditor nations.

Responding to a question about domestic issues in Egypt, President Mubarak underlined his keenness to preserve democracy and complete its structure regardless of the circumstances. He stressed the need for the government and people to cement their efforts to achieve development and prosperity for the Egyptian people.

The following is the text of the interview granted by President Husni Mubarak to the editors-in-chief of the Egyptian newspapers AL-MASA' and LE PROGRES EGYPTIEN, which will be published on 13 July.

[Editor] Mr President, you will visit France in a few days to attend France's celebrations marking the bicentennial of the outbreak of the French Revolution. What is your assessment of French-Egyptian relations on both the official and popular levels? Will you appeal to the world on

this occasion? What are the most important Arab and African issues which you think should be presented to the world leaders with whom you will meet in the French capital?

[Mubarak] The relations between the Egyptian and French peoples are based on mutual respect and understanding. Our ideas are nearly identical regarding most world issues, particularly the Middle East issue and the need for the Palestinian people to obtain their right to live.

It has been a habit for President Francois Mitterrand and me to meet to exchange views on most of these issues. Frankly speaking, when we both talk about a certain topic neither of us is embarrassed to deal with it from all aspects because our relations are based on honesty and mutual respect as well as on the sincere desire to achieve the interests of our peoples. President Mitterrand is a dear friend, and so are the French people.

I would like to make this appeal upon your request: Peace should be regarded as the rule, and anything else the exception. Hence, I ask all countries to make their utmost effort so that peace might prevail throughout the universe and so that all nations might conduct their normal life and cooperate among themselves for the continuous well-being of mankind.

Concerning the third part of your question, on the most important Arab and African issues which I will discuss with world leaders during my visit to the French capital, I would like to state that all my moves abroad and all my meetings with world leaders first aim to promote our people's interests. Having said that, it is natural that I will discuss with those leaders the importance of stability in the Middle East and of holding an international peace conference attended by the parties concerned. I will also stress that such a conference will merely serve as an umbrella after which direct negotiations can take place.

I will also discuss the Lebanese problem and ways of resolving it. Egypt's stand on this problem is known to all the world; namely, that all forces should keep their hands off Lebanon.

There are also the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, the problem of debts, the North-South dialogue, and Arab-African cooperation.

I should assume that you agree with me that all these are important topics worthy of study and discussion. I will also discuss bilateral relations individually with every leader I meet.

[Editor] Your African efforts have received appreciation and respect. You are also a candidate for the OAU chairmanship. How can there be a kind of integration between Africa and the Arab world, and what role would Egypt play toward such an end?

[Mubarak] Concerning my candidacy for the OAU chairmanship, the brothers in the OAU council insisted on nominating me, and I accepted this honor.

As for Arab-African integration, this should be a goal for all African and Arab nations. As you know, in order to have a voice in the international community, one has to have the resources. This means that in order to have a voice we have to have one stand and one opinion. We have to work together and consult closely. The Arabs and Africans have a great chance to find a joint formula of cooperation to enable them to attain their goals.

I will reiterate here that Egypt has an unshakable belief in African solidarity, cooperation, and unity because this is the road to utilize African resources and to achieve the national aspirations of African nations for reconstruction and progress.

It must be clear that Arab and African security are inextricably entwined. The independence and freedom of African nations should be a common cause for the Arabs. The stability of African countries is a vital requirement for development and progress in these countries, a quest which would surely please the Arabs.

[Editor] The U.S. Administration holds a dialogue with the PLO and at the same time uses its veto right to prevent condemnation of the Israeli repression. How does the president view this contradiction?

[Mubarak] We must admit that incumbent U.S. President George Bush, his secretary of state, and his advisers understand the issue. They want to reach a solution with us on all dimensions of the problem. It is certain that tangible progress has been made as a result of the U.S.-Palestinain dialogue. This progress called for great efforts on our part. However, as long as Arab interest is the goal, we will always cooperate with everyone who will help us to attain this goal.

In the meantime, we must realize that the superpowers such as the United States have certain interests which they must take into consideration. We cannot deny the existence of the pressure from Zionist forces in the United States and other parts of the world. At any rate, the U.S. stand is encouraging, and it is moving forward. This stand has perhaps become clear recently with the U.S. Administration's dissatisfaction with the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Editor] Would it be possible to convene the international conference this year?

[Mubarak] I have constantly and repeatedly advised that the time factor be taken into consideration.

It is possible to say now that the PLO has done everything possible to show its goodwill. Shamir, however, pursues a different course. Therefore, I am not optimistic about convening the international conference for peace this year. It might be convened next year, God willing.

[Editor] Egypt has exerted great efforts to reactivate the Nonaligned Movement, which will hold its summit in September. How does the president view the movement's future in light of the present international atmosphere in East-West relations?

[Mubarak] Egypt has always believed that the Nonaligned Movement's unity lies in its strength and effectiveness. This unity is not a mere slogan to be raised or reiterated. It is a fact based on common interests and joint causes.

We believe that a real contradiction in the interests of two states belonging to the Third World is impossible so long as we agree that we are for liberation and progress and against imperialism, exploitation, and subservience.

The movement can undoubtedly prove now that it is developing and prospering more than at any time in the past. This is because regardless of the kind of relations between the East and West, it alone is qualified to play a vital role for the well-being of mankind.

[Editor] Mr President, what is your view of the international debt problem?

[Mubarak] My opinion and Egypt's opinion in this respect are clear. We are adamant that the international community admit its responsibility and help us eliminate the flaws of the past. We see no justification at all in the developing countries' alone bearing the burdens resulting from the debt problem. At the same time, the view of the economic problems according to the creditor-debtor concept or the rich-poor concept is a narrow one and will never be an element of security and stability everywhere.

Proceeding from this point, I call on the international community once again to expedite the solution of the debt problem after the prolonged discussion has resulted in no progress.

We say loudly that leaving the debtor nations as easy marks for the creditor nations is absolutely dangerous and will have grave consequences for everyone without exception.

[Editor] We wish you would tell us of the latest developments in the Sudanese situation.

[Mubarak] I do not wish to return to the past and talk about Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's aims to harm the relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. Perhaps you recall that I once (?said) that I have no time to waste on commenting on Al-Mahdi's statements against us. Now the people of Sudan, represented by the national salvation revolution, have moved, and a new cabinet has been formed. It is evident that the new regime is enthusiastic about resolving the Sudanese citizens' economic and social problems, and this is what we really hope for. At the same time, there is an inclination toward an objective and peaceful solution of the problem of the south.

In any case, everyone must know that Egypt will never forsake the Sudanese people and that Egypt is very concerned about their interests and wishes them all progress, stability, and prosperity.

[Editor] Mr President, would you allow us to discuss domestic issues? The state has decided to grant employees an additional 15 percent allowance. We all realize your concern that those with limited incomes are not affected by price rises so that the price rise will not consume the approved increment. In your view, what are the measures that should be applied to curb any artificial rise in prices?

[Mubarak] The price rise is a joint responsibility between the citizen and the government. For our part, we have issued firm instructions for the competent authorities to take the necessary measures to control commodities.

What remains afterward is the role of the citizen, who must not rush to buy everything and should purchase only essentials. If all of us declined to buy a commodity whose price we found exaggerated, the merchant would be compelled to decrease its price. The consumer societies could play a role in this respect. These are societies set up by the citizens of a district, village, city, or any community to achieve their joint interests.

[Editor] The Egyptian opposition parties and the opposition press hardly voice anything but attacks on the government's achievements. You have always expressed appreciation for the role of the opposition in strengthening democracy. Do you not sometimes feel annoyed at the unobjective criticism that is sometimes made?

[Mubarak] I never get annoyed because I am eager to preserve democracy and promote it in all circumstances. There have been excesses. This is true, and some thought I would change my mind, but I will not. I will never abandon democracy regardless of any circumstances.

Meanwhile, it can be said that some improvement has taken place in the attitude of the opposition parties, perhaps due to experience and practice. Therefore, I would say that the time will come when these parties will find their way on the true path for democracy. This is a task which they will have to accomplish, for it is in the interests of all our people.

[Editor] The Arabs have returned to Egypt's side, and Egypt has been accepted to its place in the Arab fold, thanks to your prudent policies. What role can Egypt plan to create an integrated pan-Arab project and to remove the vestiges of estrangement and fragmentation?

[Mubarak] Once more, I will assert that Egypt has never isolated itself from the Arabs. Speaking for myself, I have always kept in touch with the Arab kings, amirs, and presidents. In my opinion, the restoration of ties was a forgone conclusion.

As for what you call an integrated pan-Arab plan, I believe that the Arab groupings which have sprung into being will pave they way for such an objective. For the time being, these groupings should continue to perform in a slow and steady manner, for the Arab world can hardly benefit from any abrupt changes. In the meantime, there has to be some coordination among the Arab groupings, for these grouping must be seen as working under the umbrella of the Arab League.

Paper Cited on U.S. Reaction to Israeli Plan

NC1507083089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—Referring to the reports that Washington will seriously consider the convening of an international peace conference after the plan for holding elections in the occupied territories stumbles, AL-AHRAM says that if these reports are true, then this is a praiseworthy and expedient tendency that has emerged after a long wait and after patience has almost run out. In today's editorial, the paper says: It appears, however, that Washington will not easily abandon the Israeli plan now that it has gone a long way and exerted strenuous efforts to convince others that the plan deserves to be implemented. This is to avert the difficulties of convening an international conference associated with Israel's rejection of such a conference.

AL-AHRAM notes that this U.S. stand brings up an urgent question: Must only what Israel proposes always come first in U.S. priorities in dealings, contacts, consultations, and persuasion? Must the regionally and internationally accepted formulas always be set aside only because Israel rejects them, instead of exerting efforts to convince Israel of these formulas?

The paper concludes by asking: How long will Washington tolerate Israel's intransigence without taking real initiative in checking it? How long will Washington leave the solution process to Tel Aviv, which is intransigent at times and extreme at others and jeopardizes U.S. prestige, ability, and credibility?

U.S. Urged To Endorse International Conference

NC1607071089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newsaper notes U.S. President George Bush's statement in which he emphasized that the conditions Israel imposed on Shamir's proposal for elections in the occupied Arab land are unhelpful to the peace process in the region and that Washington will not change its policy following the change in the Israeli stand. The paper wonders what else must occur before the U.S. Administration endorses the idea of an international peace conference.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR asserts that the idea of an international peace conference is an international demand supported by both Eastern and Western leaders as the best means to reach a just settlement to the disputes that cause tension and instability in the Middle East. Now that the curtain has fallen on the Israeli peace farce, everyone is asking what the U.S. Government will do to get the efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict moving after the exposure of the true nature of Shamir's intentions and plans toward the olive branch extended by the Palestinians, an olive branch which cannot be held out indefinitely.

Paris Club Debt Rescheduling Request Planned

JN1707202589 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that during the next Paris and London Club meetings, Egypt is expected to ask the creditor countries to reschedule about $8 billion of its foreign debts over a time period longer than 5 years, which was the timespan of the last rescheduling last year, to decrease the interest on debts during the covering period, as well as set a short timespan during which bilateral negotiations between Egypt and the creditor countries can take place. The creditor countries should also stop asking Egypt to pay off its due installments as soon as an agreement is reached at the Paris Club meetings. These meetings are expected to take place in October.

Liberal Party Supports Arab Cooperation Council

JN0507134289 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 3 Jul 89 p 6

[By Hilmi Salim, secretary of the Liberal Party]

[Text] The Liberal Party leadership council, headed by party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad, announced its full support for the recent Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] resolutions issued in Alexandria. The council described them as a historic turning point in declaring the start of the great Arab solidarity for the sake of Arab unity, entrenching a sound strategy to establish a common market of the four countries, and affirming the principles and bases set by the four leaders for their peoples. The priority task is to work for the citizens of the countries. They have the right to travel without a visa since the four countries are considered one region for tourism and flights. In addition, there will be legal and legislative cooperation to realize legislative unity among the ACC countries.

The council supports all agreements concluded among the ACC countries so that they can shoulder their responsibilities, organize their meetings, and declare their resolutions.

Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad chaired a meeting of the party leadership council last Wednesday at the headquarters of the party in 'Abdin.

The council reviewed internal and external stands, the most important current issues, and the resolutions issued by the permanent council of the party in its last meeting. It expressed its full support for these resolutions, which express the council's great satisfaction over Libyan-Egyptian rapprochement and welcome the intended visit of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The council affirmed the declaration by members of the permanent council supporting and backing the Egyptian Government in not objecting to Sudan's demand to annul the joint cooperation agreement between the two countries. It also condemned any claim that Egypt played a role in events in Sudan with regard to the shakiness in its internal front. It expressed its full conviction that Egypt adheres to noninterference in the internal affairs of any other country.

Within the framework of discussions over the sham elections for the Consultative Council, the party leadership affirmed that the government wanted to convince the opposition that the individual ticket system was better than the party ticket system as far as they are concerned, that the country's affairs are in the hands of the National Party, that the Muslim Brotherhood does not have the influence it claims on the political street, and that the Labor and Liberal Parties will not benefit from an alliance with the brothers [Muslim Brotherhood].

The council affirmed that the behavior of the brothers before and during the election battle weakened the alliance and gave the government full opportunity to do as it pleases.

The council discussed the situation in some governorates, such as Kafr al-Shaykh following the death of its mayor, Muhammad 'Ali Kalash. The council mourned his death at the beginning of the meeting in the speech delivered by the party leader. It also discussed the stand in the other governorates in light of the last Consultative Council elections, during which some violations took place. The council also issued its directives to the party secretary general and the Secretariat members to implement and follow up the organizational resolutions on this issue.

Brotherhood Leader on Ties With Other Groups

JN0707064089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
4 Jul 89 p 12

[Interview with Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, People's Assembly member and a Muslim Brotherhood leader, by 'Imad Subhi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Subhi] You know well that the Consultative Council has no legislative powers and that the overwhelming majority in it will support the National Democratic Party like the People's Assembly and other local councils in Egypt. On what basis did you decide to take part in the Consultative Council elections next month despite the boycott of the elections by the al-Wafd Party and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping? What is the Muslim Brotherhood's philosophy behind this decision?

[Al-Hudaybi] We took part in the 1987 elections, and we know what happened in them. However, we decided to take part in the elections. As usual, we must continue to be the vanguard power that struggles to support truth, to let people know what their rights are, and to draw their attention to their duties.

[Subhi] Why do you term the Islamic Jihad organization extremist although you support the same organization in Afghanistan? What kind of disagreement exists between you and other religious groups, most of which had, at one time, embraced your ideas?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have no differences with any religious groups. Differing opinions always exist even inside the same party. We follow an unchanging rule: If we agree over something with other groups, we cooperate in it, if we disagree, each one of us respects the others views and does what he believes in. We ask God to grant other groups success. We have said time and again that the Muslim Brotherhood is not a group comprising all believers or Muslims. It is a group of believers or Muslims among other Islamic groups which have the right to call for Islam the way they deem appropriate. This is what we say and are committed to. We have nothing to do with those groups and have no contacts with them. No agreement could possibly be reached between us and them. However, we do not seek to clash with them and we avoid any hatred between us and them. We do not know the truth of the violence attributed to them. This is because, unfortunately, what is reported in the press is distorted and cannot be trusted.

[Subhi] The Muslim Brotherhood is accused of being unconcerned over the masses' problems. What do you say?

[Al-Hudaybi] First, this is incorrect. A Muslim cannot be unconcerned. On the contrary, a Muslim respects others. He cannot be unconcerned and this should never be said of us.

[Subhi] All opposition parties' programs include solutions to the masses' problems. However, the Muslim Brothhood has so far given no attention to these problems. Why?

[Al-Hudaybi] As for why we have proposed no programs, this is a very old issue. The opposition parties propose programs because they believe in and adopt the existing foundations. They do not disapprove the usury system followed in banks and all the state's activities. Naturally, they follow this system because they recognize it. They consider everything permissible. They do not mind tourism even if it is based on prostitution. In other words, they do not seek to change what already exists. As for us, our task is to change the existing pillars because we believe that not everything is permissible. In the economic field, we believe in things that others do not believe in. We believe that following God's instructions has an effect on the economy's strength or weakness. For example, we believe in God's words which say: You who believe, fear God and give up what remains of your demand for usury, if you are indeed believers. If you do it not, take notice of war from God and his apostle. [Koranic verses] Therefore, any economic system based on usury is at war with God.

[Subhi] Your group is accused of being in constant compromise with the government. What do you say?

[Al-Hudaybi] We do not compromise. We follow the course of Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, urging wise and peaceful preaching. We have followed this course since the establishment of the Muslim Brotherhood. [passage omitted]

Higher Food, Services Prices Take Effect Jul 1

JN1307185289 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 10 Jul 89 p 1

[By Muhammad al-Minyawi]

[Text] The new foodstuff and services prices took effect Saturday, 1 July.

The price of sugar for factories and other industrial use has gone up to 110 piasters per kilo. The price of flour for investment establishments and bakeries has gone up from 35 piasters to 110 piasters per kilo. The price per kilo for dry candy has been set at 70 piasters. At the same time, the price of unpackaged oil for factories has been set at 197 piasters per kilo.

Another decision has set the price of packaged pasta for the public and private sectors at 30 piasters per packet of 450 grams.

Meanwhile, warehouses have suspended issuing sugar pending a decision on the new price ranging between 100 and 115 piasters per kilo.

Canned products for the public sector have gone up by 30 percent and for the private sector by 15 to 17.5 percent. Fabric prices have been increased by 5 to 10 percent and off-the-rack clothing by 5 to 20 pounds for men's safari summer suits.

Also covered in the price increases are refrigerators, washing machines, gas cookers, fans, air conditioners, vacuum cleaners, and mixers.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Burkina Faso's Compaore

LD1707092889 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, al-Nasser [July] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution last night received Captain Blaise Campaore, the president of the Popular Front and head of the state of the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso. [Armed Forces Commander] Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir was present at the reception.

Tunisia's Baccouche Arrives in Banghazi 17 Jul

LD1807083889 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in the town of al-Bayan al-Awal, Banghazi, this evening.

He was accorded an official welcome by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi who were at the forefront of those who welcomed the Tunisian prime minister and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Soviet Arms, Other Issues

JN1707184489 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Jul 89 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum on 8 and 10 July]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] How do you react to the Arab welcome your movement has received? Do you view it as welcoming a new era or happy that an old one is gone?

[Al-Bashir] To be honest and truthful, it is a sign of jubilation over the disappearance of the old regime, because the Arab brothers have experience of the old system and they do not know us.

[Al-Jawhari] Were there any advance contacts with certain Arab capitals before you launched your move?

[Al-Bashir] None whatsoever. We had no contacts with any capital or embassy.

[Al-Jawhari] What are the motives behind Arab support for you? What are its dimensions and objectives?

[Al-Bashir] Arab support was prompted by concern for the well-being of Sudan. The Arab nation is, so to speak, one body that suffers when one of its organs is in pain.

Arab support was motivated by the wish to serve the Sudanese people and to give added strength to the Arab nation.

Sudan's former prime minister himself used to promise the Sudanese people and the entire Arab nation that Sudan was about to turn into another Lebanon. Hence, the support shown us by the Arabs.

[Al-Jawhari] Don't you think that by embracing the penal code of the Islamic shari'a and by failing to unequivocally back out from this system, the old order posed a security threat to its Arab environs since it obliquely encouraged religious extremism in the neighboring states—specifically in Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] Trading in the Islamic shari'a and its application by politicians has done great harm to the shari'a itself and sparked off unwarranted hostility to the Islamic shari'a and Islam, despite the fact that the Sudanese are a Muslim people characteristically peaceful.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the extent and sort of help you have received from the Arabs? Which countries provided assistance, and did it include arms?

[Al-Bashir] We haven't yet computed the Arab assistance. The assistance came in the form of fuel, flour, and medicines, among other things. We have not received any arms, however. Nor have we reached agreement on receiving any. High on the list of priorities of the new regime, though, is the development and modernization of the Armed Forces and police. I expect brotherly Arab and friendly countries are interested in strong Army and police forces in Sudan. We therefore expect to receive armaments assistance.

[Al-Jawhari] You have declared that you are pan-Arabists. Do you mean Sudanese nationalists or pan-Arabists as such?

[Al-Bashir] We are Sudanese nationalists, first and foremost, and we stand for Arab and African unity.

The Sudanese people have their own distinct features. We may be different from other Arab countries in certain areas.

Initially, we will have to work to forge Sudanese nationalism into one melting pot, and then try to make it a force capable of interacting with all the forces around the world.

[Al-Jawhari] Are you retracting your statements about Sudan's unity with Egypt and Libya?

[Al-Bashir] Absolutely not; Arab unity concerns Libya and Egypt, which are both Arab and African. When we discuss Egypt and Libya, there is no difference between Arab and African unity.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you mean that unity with Egypt and Libya will be postponed until a national Sudanese unity is achieved?

[Al-Bashir] No. It is an unpostponed goal. We have only delayed it to obtain constitutional approval.

[Al-Jawhari] How can you achieve unity between Egypt and Libya?

[Al-Bashir] Plans for this began before we assumed power. The two countries have started a process of rapprochement and they also discussed establishing strong relations. We had no role in this process. The role we had to play was played, God be praised.

[Al-Jawhari] From the beginning, AL-SIYASAH newspaper followed up the Palestinin and Arab efforts to achieve reconciliation between Egypt and Libya. These efforts centered on freezing differences between the two countries. There was no optimism even about any coordination between them.

[Al-Bashir] I disagree with you on this point, although we do not expect any goal to be achieved overnight. Viewed in light of the short period it took, the rapprochement between the two countries is great. We also expect their future relations to be stronger.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you not believe that your attempts to take Libya from the Arab Maghreb Union and Egypt from the Arab Cooperation Council will create differences with these groupings?

[Al-Bashir] (Laughing) We will never make such attempts. We believe that any new grouping or union is a strength for previous groupings or unions. However, these unions are a step toward comprehensive Arab unity. Any country's participation in more than one union will mean that Arab unity will be achieved, because these two unions will be part of one union. The present unions will form one union. Consequently, the Arab nation will unite under one government, because small entities cannot survive in the future. In today's world, big fish eat small fish. The Soviet Union and the United States have become strong only through unity.

[Al-Jawhari] How do you view the fact that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi did not receive the Sudanese Revolution Command Council delegation?

[Al-Bashir] We planned to convey a message to our brothers in Libya. The brothers in Libya asked our brother Al-Tijani to wait for such a meeting because Col al-Qadhdhafi had a busy schedule. However, our current burdens in Sudan did not allow brother Al-Tijani to wait for such a meeting. I will visit brother Al-Qadhdhafi, and he will also come here in person.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there an agreement that Al-Qadhdhafi will visit Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] There is no such agreement, but he will come here as an Arab brother and colleague. We will visit all the Arab brothers, and we will also invite them. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] What is your practical position on the Chadian-Libyan differences?

[Al-Bashir] We will try first to achieve a reconciliation between the Chadian Government and opposition and then to improve relations between Chad and Libya.

[Al-Jawhari] How can you reconcile your eagerness to maintain good relations with the two sides and the Chadian allegations about the presence of the Libyan Islamic Legion in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] In fact, there is no Libyan Islamic Legion in Sudan. There are Chadian opposition elements in Sudan. Some of them were disarmed, and others have not yet been disarmed. Our principles do not allow us to permit any armed opposition to work from our territories against any neighboring country.

[Al-Jawhari] Did your delegation to Tripoli discuss Sudanese-Libyan-Chadian relations, and what were the results?

[Al-Bashir] Our delegation explained what happened in Sudan. It also discussed relations with Libya. This is what we concentrated on to reach a joint vision.

[Al-Jawhari] What are the main features of this vision?

[Al-Bashir] Calling for Arab unity, renunciation of regional differences, and the Palestine question are the main issues on which there are no differences among these countries.

[Al-Jawhari] The cancellation of the two military agreements between Sudan and Egypt and Sudan and Libya was one of John Garang's conditions to meet with a delegation from the previous government. Do you think that he will now accept Arab unity?

[Al-Bashir] We have not yet met with brother John Garang to ask his opinion on this subject.

[Al-Jawhari] Will he accept such a thing when he rejected less than that?

[Al-Bashir] Regrettably, the previous contacts were held with the aim of making gains for the parties. It is known that at the start of any negotiations, each side will come with rigid conditions in order to achieve reasonable demands at the end.

Bilateral agreements and relations among countries are legitimate and legal. It is not a crime to sign a joint defense pact or protocol for cooperation with any country. All countries in the world do this.

[Al-Jawhari] In your early statements, you declared your abidance by international accords and Sudan's obligations made by previous governments. This was a wise move, which was also made by all coups all over the world. However, at your latest news conference, you revoked the previous contacts that were made between the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government and John Garang's movement. Do you think that this decision of yours was an action or a reaction?

[Al-Bashir] No agreement was reached between the previous Sudanese government and John Garang. Agreement was reached between the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and John Garang.

[Al-Jawhari] But the government adopted that agreement, which became part of the national unity program before the government was reshuffled following the crisis of last February.

[Al-Bashir] This agreement was reached inside Sudan among the parties in the government. It is not an international agreement, and it is not at all related to international agreements and accords.

[Al-Jawhari] You even revoked the contacts?

[Al-Bashir] I denounced the contacts that were made because they did not aim to reach a solution as much as they were party maneuvers. A political contact was made earlier between the al-Ummah Party and John Garang's movement in which agreement was reached on the Koka Dam declaration. The DUP was not involved in these contacts and that declaration. However, when the DUP signed the agreement of last November with John Garang's movement, which was another form of the Koka Dam declaration, the al-Ummah Party objected to it because it did not take part in the contacts that led to that agreement. All these contacts represented a party conflict, and not contacts between the Sudanese Government and the movement.

[Al-Jawhari] We can view the question from this perspective. However, we can also view it from another perspective. Following the February confrontation, which took place between all Sudanese parties and associations and between he Army and the Al-Mahdi government, the government was reshuffled on the basis of a national program. That program was based, among other things, on adherence to the November agreement. Therefore, that agreement became a subject of national unanimity.

[Al-Bashir] (Emphatically) It was not a subject of national unanimity! Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi did not approve of it. He had to sign it because he loves power and is ready to concede everything in order to retain that power. To prove this, Al-Sadiq's statements, interviews, and defense of the government during the period of the so-called united national front government did not include any mention of the November agreement.

[Al-Jawhari] What is your specific objection to the November agreement? Do you object to certain points in it?

[Al-Bashir] I object to preconditions. I do not believe in preconditions. People sit and agree; no one should impose conditions on others. The agreement was topsy-turvy because the most important point—that is, the one on a cease-fire—had a low priority.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you think Col John Garang wants to detach the south, or he is really clinging to Sudan's unity, as he says?

[Al-Bashir] The two possibilities are conceivable. The problem began when the south was redivided into three regions. That was the direct reason triggering the rebellion. The issue then took local, regional, and international dimensions. This might be part of the political maneuvers which shifted the issue from a limited to a wider scope.

[Al-Jawhari] Throughout his years in power, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi used to believe—as he himself told me in an interview with him last October—that resolving the issue of the south lies in reaching an agreement with Ethiopia. It appears that you are now following the same line.

[Al-Bashir] Not at all. We do not believe that resolving the issue lies in an agreement with Ethiopia. If we reached agreement with Ethiopia, John Garang might leave it and work from the territories of other states. Even if all states refused to receive John Garang and he were forced to enter Sudan, that would not resolve the issue. We want a solution that satisfies people.

[Al-Jawhari] Are you ready to barter the issue of the south for that of Eritrea?

[Al-Bashir] This is a different case. We are now in the process of studying the dimensions of the Eritrean issue. We entrusted one of the council members with the task of studying the dimensions of the Eritrean issue and asked others to study relations with Ethiopia. We are in a stage of studying things and will define our stand in the light of the results of these studies.

[Al-Jawhari] The previous government suspended the maintenance and refurbishment of the Soviet projects and factories in Sudan. What is your stand?

[Al-Bashir] We contacted the Soviet charge d'affaires and asked that relations be restored to the 1970 level and that all Soviet projects be refurbished and new ones be set up. We are ready to cooperate with the Soviet Union in order to benefit from its capabilities as a major power and as a friend that has offered and is expected to offer much for the Sudanese people.

[Al-Jawhari] Are you talking about industrial or armament projects?

[Al-Bashir] All. There are huge factories in Sudan built by the Soviet Union, and we want to refurbish them. At the same time, we have Soviet weapons and hardware that need maintenance and rehabilitation. We aspire for more military cooperation in the field of armaments, equipment, and so forth.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you think relations with Moscow may pave the way for larger and more comprehensive harmony in your relations with Ethiopia?

[Al-Bashir] This is possible in view of the close ties existing between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union.

[Al-Jawhari] Has the Soviet charge d'affaires promised anything specific?

[Al-Bashir] He welcomed and promised to contact and convey our viewpoint to the officials in Moscow. He informed us he is optimistic that the Soviet leadership will agree to what we proposed. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Outlines Priorities of Revolution

NC1707162289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1147 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, leader of the national salvation revolution and prime minister, by unidentified radio correspondent in Khartoum; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] We welcome Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and his revolution comrades. We welcome you as representative of the great Sudanese people who have endorsed the revolution.

[Al-Bashir] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I would like to start by expressing my appreciation to you and all the Egyptian news media for your support for the Sudanese people and revolution. Your coverage of the revolution and its nature and aspirations has helped us to gain the acceptance of the outside world and break Sudan's isolation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Now that the situation has stabilized in Sudan and a new cabinet has been formed, what are your plans for promoting further stability and for enhancing production and development in your country. There have already been positive signs of progress in this direction.

[Al-Bashir] As I said in a previous interview, security and development are two sides of the same coin. Both head our agenda. We seek to resolve our security problems. Thanks be to God, we have managed to establish reconciliation among the warring tribes in Darfur. A truce has also been established in the south and there are no more military operations there. We seek, God willing, to turn this truce into an overall cease-fire, in preparation for signing a comprehensive agreement to solve the problem of the south.

Once security problems are solved, we will concentrate on increasing development and production in order to pull the Sudanese economy from the brink. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You certainly understand the importance of the news media and the trade unions. What are your plans to improve the performance of such crucial institutions?

[Al-Bashir] As a matter of fact, trade unions have been active in Sudan for a long time and they have traditions and experience. We are (?for) trade unions, for we have actually come to power for the masses that these unions represent. Our goals for improving life in the country are possibly quite close to those of the trade unions. We are about to issue a new law for the trade unions, according to which new trade union elections will be held and new trade union councils will be formed.

As for the press, it has been in a state of chaos. One indication of this is the large number of newspapers we used to have. The improper language used in the press—the abuse, the foul language, the aspersions, and even the laxity in handling security topics—made us suspend all the newspapers. We will pass a new law for journals and publications. In accordance with this law, we will have independent and free press. We believe that the press must play its role in conveying public opinion and in monitoring the performance of (?the authorities). [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There is much talk in Sudan about democracy. What is your concept of democracy, and what are the means to achieve a democracy that does not result in poverty or chaos?

[Al-Bashir] Democracy, in its liberal form, has been applied three times in Sudan. It was a complete failure all three times. This form of democracy has probably (?kept the country behind) for 13 years. For if the democratic experiment succeeded right from the start, our situation would be different today. We certainly failed the first time around, and the Army came to power. Democracy was reinstituted and it failed again and the Army took over again. It was tried a third time and it failed, and this prompted us to sieze power.

All of this proves that this experiment has been a failure and that we ought to seek a new formula compatible with the circumstances in Sudan as a Third World country. The general features, which we are still (?discussing), for this formula is that the people will be represented in elected constitutional bodies, so that the public can participate in decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Since the outbreak of the revolution, we noticed an improvement in Sudan's Arab and African ties. Would you like to comment on that issue?

[Al-Bashir] Sudan has common borders, and sometimes tribal links, with eight countries, and we had good relations with our neighbors in the past. However, the unwise policies by the recent government angered friends and brothers, led to Sudan's isolation, and created animosities. Our neighbors were pained to see their ties with Sudan deteriorate, for which only the previous Sudanese authorities are to blame. As soon as power changed hands in Sudan, relations returned to normal. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We have noticed that the national salvation revolution has adopted a generally pan-Arab stand. Yesterday you met with PLO representatives. We would like to hear Sudan's opinions on resolving the problems of the Arab world, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

[Al-Bashir] We have probably already solved one of the problems facing the Arab people, namely, that of a divided and torn Sudan. This was our first step. The second step, God willing, will be our contribution to a solution to the Lebanese problem. Exactly as the masses of the Sudanese people made a stand of unity behind this revolution, we hope that the Lebanese gorups will also make a stand of unity in their country. We will support Arab efforts in this direction. As newcomers to the Arab political arena, we have no animosity toward anyone, so we hope to be accepted by all parties. We will use this acceptance to bring Lebanese viewpoints closer.

As for the Palestinian problem, we will employ all our human and material resources in the service of the Palestinian cause. We support the Palestinian people and their intifadah [uprising]. We support the Palestinian revolution. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Explains Background of Coup

PM1707101289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Jul 89 pp 14-15

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, by unidentified correspondent in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] For the first time in a long time the supply of water and electricity to Khartoum has not been disrupted and has continued for the past 3 days. Does this mean that the parties have stopped fiddling and that the hidden war between them at the public's expense has now come to an end?

[Al-Bashir] (Laughing) It is God's will. The electricity supply has not been disrupted because the workers in that field felt that the movement represents them. We felt that all sectors of the Sudanese people wanted change, which is why we acted. Let me make another observation here. All the parties and unions signed the charter for the defense of democracy, which stipulated that when a coup occurs everything will come to a halt and there will be civil disobedence, but the opposite happened. As soon as the coup occurred, workers went to their factories and those who were on strike went back to work. Fear of losses was what made people support us. I have read something by someone, to this effect: "O God, let me die a Sudanese but do not let me die a refugee." That was the feeling of many Sudanese people who feared that they would become refugees in the desert or in southern Egypt. The future appeared frightening. That is why people rushed to work and production as soon as the coup occurred.

[Correspondent] If that is your opinion regarding the charter for the defense of democracy, how do you explain the leaflets distributed in Khartoum over the past few days?

[Al-Bashir] Al-Ummah Party leaflets?

[Correspondent] And the communists.

[Al-Bashir] We do not blame either group. The al-Ummah Party was the ruling party and it had power, grandeur, and wealth. It exhausted the country's resources under the slogan "The country is ours and we are the masters." One of the mistakes committed by the communists was their participation in the government we have just overthrown. Perhaps they had plans to seize power themselves and we beat them to it.

[Correspondent] It is an important and decisive step for a man to assume power. It could be the most crucial moment of his life with his ending up as a hero or a traitor. How was that moment for you? Did the image of the scaffold or the execution squad pass through your mind? What precisely were your feelings at that moment?

[Al-Bashir] Such moments really do require courage. We, the military, have often been exposed to death. When you decide to attack you are faced with gunfire. A man who has experienced such situations is not very frightened in similar situations. There are moments when you feel that the operation will succeed. Such moments certainly inspire confidence. I did actually think of the possibility that I might be arrested and brought to trial, but that was a slim possibility. In the final moments I was afraid that my features might betray something that would make people suspect that I was planning something, because there were old suspicions about me. Luckily, I was summoned from the south to Khartoum to be sent to attend a term at the al-Nasir Academy in Egypt that was due to begin officially on Saturday 1 July. I arrived in Khartoum Monday and had just a few days to complete travel arrangements. I spent all my time during the day at the General Command. The last thing I did on Thursday was obtain an exit permit from the military intelligence. That was the last travel arrangement. Others clearly had the impression that I was very upset because there was little time and I wanted to go to Egypt. So, nobody in the security department, the General Command, or the intelligence department suspected anything. Now I thank God for that chance of a term in Egypt because it gave me a cover against any suspicion. A colleague of mine even jokingly said to me as I was finalizing the travel arrangements: "It seems your coup will be postponed another year and a half."

[Correspondent] There are no secrets in Sudan. How did you manage to keep your secret for such a long time?

[Al-Bashir] It is true, there are no secrets in Sudan because that is the nature of the Sudanese people. We have benefited from past experience. When we started our grouping we examined the causes of the failure of previous movements which had been exposed. We moved cautiously. We began our movement more than 2 years before the end of Numayri's regime, that is, in 1983.

[Correspondent] How were members recruited or enlisted in the organization? What was the structure?

[Al-Bashir] We did not contact any individuals. We were a group from the beginning. If one of us nominated someone to join us we would discuss that possibility and express our views regarding that particular person. If we unanimously approved of that person then we would draw up a plan to incorporate him and would implement the plan in stages. At each stage we would discuss his reactions and whether we should continue to deal with

him. In the cases of some people, we reached halfway and then stopped, and in other cases we continued until just before the final stage and then stopped. We applied the cells system, with only the leader of each cell knowing the members. These are the factors which maintained the movement's secrecy.

[Correspondent] Who founded the organization?

[Al-Bashir] The organization was first started by Air Colonel Mukhtar Muhammadayn, who was martyred last November; the base where he worked was named after him. After him came 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Hasan, who is now with us in the Command Council.

[Correspondent] You recently said that you had no connection with the coup attempt discovered weeks before you assumed power. Why, then, have you released the military but not the civilians?

[Al-Bashir] We have asked for a list of names of civilians and asked the security committee to study their cases individually and not as a group, because some of them are linked to the Numayri regime which we reject.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that it really was a serious attempt or was it all engineered by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi?

[Al-Bashir] There was some kind of movement and there were contacts between the brother officers, but not to the extent announced.

[Correspondent] There is much talk about the militias, and many people see them as the prime danger. What is their real scale?

[Al-Bashir] The al-Ummah Party's militia, which people are talking about, consists of about 200 people. They are homeguards, servants, and drivers, and they pose no threat at all.

[Correspondent] What happened to the arms they had? Did you seize them?

[Al-Bashir] We seized some arms, including Kalashnikov rifles, but not many. Some were buried.

[Correspondent] Why did the Sudanese people receive your assumption of power in silence, whereas Numayri's overthrow was received with jubilation?

[Al-Bashir] We rejected support expressed through demonstrations. Also, the organizations capable of rallying people together, as in April, have disappeared.

[Correspondent] Have you sensed any Libyan concern because of the improvement of relations with Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] Not at all: They welcomed it and called for a continued improvement of relations with Egypt. They said they had no objection to Nile valley unity and would welcome and support it.

[Correspondent] What role did Egypt play in the arrangements for the seizure of power?

[Al-Bashir] The Egyptians played no part.

[Correspondent] Did you receive the green light from any foreign party?

[Al-Bashir] No foreign or internal party was contacted before our action.

[Correspondent] What is your reaction to the U.S. reservations about you?

[Al-Bashir] U.S. law forbids support for any military regime that overthrows or seizes power from a civilian regime.

[Correspondent] The Sudanese people expect a lot from you in the economic field. Do you have any plans ready?

[Al-Bashir] We have a concept ready for solving economic problems. It will appear soon, God willing.

[Correspondent] Do you have the ways and means to control the market and economic activity?

[Al-Bashir] We have complete faith in the Sudanese people and the various security organs. The measures we have taken in the form of laws and regulations will control the market.

[Correspondent] When the military assume power they face the problem of choosing between people of confidence and people of experience. Which of the two do you favor at present?

[Al-Bashir] Our criteria are experience, honesty, impartiality, and sincerity. All the Sudanese people trust us.

[Correspondent] Former President Ja'far Numayri has sent you a message of support. How did you receive it?

[Al-Bashir] As any from any Sudanese citizen expressing himself.

[Correspondent] How long will it be before laws organizing the press and the unions are issued?

[Al-Bashir] Not long, I hope.

[Correspondent] Who will own the press? Individuals or institutions?

[Al-Bashir] The relevant law has not been issued yet.

[Correspondent] What are the inclinations, regarding ownership of the press in particular?

[Al-Bashir] Anything is possible, including individual ownership.

[Correspondent] When will you change the names of squares and parks from from 6 April to 30 June?

[Al-Bashir] This will not be done at all. We will not change names or plaques because that is history. We will not have our pictures hanging in public places, because we are above such trivialities.

Kuwait

Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Arrives

LD1707142489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1319 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 17 (KUNA)—Soviet Deputy Defence Minister Konstantin Kochetov arrived here Monday leading a military delegation for a four-day official visit to the country.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait and senior army officers.

Kochetov and the accompanying delegation are scheduled to meet Tuesday morning with Defence Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad and Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid Al Sabah.

While here, the Soviet delegation will visit a number of army encampments.

Qatar

Amiri Decree Names New Cabinet Ministers

NC1807091389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0852 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, 18 Jul (MENA)—According to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the amiri decree named the new Qatari cabinet as follows:
1. Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani: heir apparent and defense minister.
2. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani: minister of finance and oil.
3. Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Jasim Ibn-Hamad Al Thani: minister of economy and trade.
4. Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani: minister of the interior
5. Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Suhaym Al Thani: minister of information and culture.
6. Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Sayf Al Thani: minister of justice.
7. Shaykh Khalid Ibn-Muhammad Ibn-'Ali Al Thani: minister of public health.
8. Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Jasim Ibn-Jabr Al Thani: minister of municipal affairs and agriculture.
9. Dr 'Isa Ibn-Ghanim al-Kuwari: minister of Amiri court affairs.
10. 'Abdallah Ibn-Salih al-Mani': minister of transportation and communications.
11. 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah al-'Atiyah: foreign minister.
12. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah Turki: minister of education.
13. Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir: minister of electricity and water.
14. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Subay'i: minister of industry and public works.
15. 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id al-Dirham: minister of labor, social affairs, and housing.

It is to be noted in the new Qatari cabinet that only two ministers from the outgoing movement retained their portfolios: the minister of defense and the minister of finance and oil.

A new ministry for the affairs of the Amiri court, occupied by the former information minister Dr 'Isa Ibn-Ghanim al-Kuwari, has been introduced in the new cabinet for the first time. The name of the Ministry of Information has been changed to Ministry of Information and Culture and is headed in the new cabinet by Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Suhaym Al Thani. The minister of justice, a post which remained vacant since the death of its last occupant some time ago, was given to Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Sayf Al Thani.

Saudi Arabia

'Hizballah Party of Hijaz' on Mecca Arrests

LD1707120389 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Qom, July 17, IRNA—The Saudi regime has arrested a group of Muslim youths in connection with last week's bomb blasts in Mecca, according to a revolutionary group.

Two bombs exploded near Ka'bah last Monday killing one pilgrim and wounding several others.

Sources of the Hizballah Party of Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) said here that the Muslims were arrested "on baseless charges of participation in the recent sabotage in Mecca without any rational reason."

It said the arrests took place in the Hasa region of eastern Saudi Arabia. It did not say how many were involved.

Meanwhile the Society of Hijaz 'Ulema issued a statement here Monday condemning Riyadh "for placing bombs near the sacred mosque and repeatedly violating the sanctity of the holy shrines."

The statement also called on world Muslims to free the holy shrines from the domination of Saudi rulers.

Planned Cuts in Supply of Oil Reportedly Reduced

NC1707105089 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Nicosia, July 17 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has decided to reduce planned cuts in its supplies of crude oil to contract customers in August, thereby easing deliveries to buyers in the Far East, the Nicosia-based MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) reported Monday.

Customers in Japan, one of the customers hardest-hit by cuts in the second quarter of 1989, will now receive 90 per cent of contractual volumes, MEES said.

According to the weekly newsletter, Saudi Arabia told customers such as Japan's Mitsubishi and Kyodo Oil companies they would receive 90,000 (contract volume 100,000) and 45,000 (contract volume 50,000) barrels a day (b/d), respectively.

The Indian Oil Corporation, with a contract volume of 60,000 b/d is to receive 54,000 b/d in August, while Taiwan's CPC [expansion unknown] will receive its full contract volume of 100,000 b/d, MEES said.

Analysts suggest Saudi Arabia may have been selling less oil earlier this year to abide by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' ceiling of 4.524 million b/d for the first half of 1989.

"With the OPEC ceiling up (to 4.769 b/d) in the second half and perhaps with more available in storage facilities, the Saudis may have decided to raise supply levels," an oil analyst said.

Oil producers, in pre-arranged deals with buyers, often agree to export less than the full amount in the delivery contract if supplies drop below the required level.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Discusses British, U.S. Mideast Role

JN1707164589 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 17 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan was quoted today as urging Britain to exert efforts to resolve the Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

"We want from Britain what a man wants from his friend," Shaykh Zayid told the London-based AL-HAWADITH, HUNA LONDON and AL-HAYAT newspapers in an interview marking his visit to Britain tomorrow.

"Britain's relations with the Arab world is very old and historical. That's why we blame her more than any one else because she knows the Arab world more than others," he said. He said his visit to Britain was designed to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Asked about Euro-Arab links, he said: "Such ties are good. The more they strengthen, the more the two sides will benefit provided the links are based on mutual respect and cooperation."

Shaykh Zayid, the first Arab leader to call for a regional initiative to resolve Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war, said he was confident the three-man Arab committee was qualified to reach a solution. "The committee is now in the process of [word indistinct] a proper peace and unity in Lebanon," he said.

Shaykh Zayid expressed satisfaction over the results of the May 23-26 Arab summit in Morocco and said the Arab situation is better than before.

"In my opinion, what happened recently of reconciliations among Arab leaders was a great thing. Current Arab situation has become better than before," he said. He said he felt from his contacts with Arab leaders keenness to patch up differences.

The Arab leaders realised since the first day of the Casablanca summit that the entire Arab nation has gained from such a meeting. Proofs for this will be clear for the world day after day," he said.

Asked about a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, he said: "The differences between the two countries are marginal rather than basic. Disagreements between brothers will God willing disappear, and thanks to goodwill efforts in the appropriate time."

"Iraq and Syria are two brotherly countries and one organ in the Arab body. Whatever happens between two brothers should not lead to a boycott because there is one Arab nation, whose interest must be placed above all considerations," he added.

Turning to the Palestinian problem, Shaykh Zayid urged the U.S. to push for a peace settlement. "I think it is time for the U.S. to comprehend the Middle East situation, realise its duties, and shoulder its responsibilities. What we expect from the U.S. is what we expect from a friend. It is not impossible," he said.

"Concerning the future of the Palestinian issue, I believe Palestinian rights must be regained, a fact that receives the interest of all Arabs, who are seeking to achieve it."

In the interview, Shaykh Zayid said the UAE was satisfied with the experience of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), or which it is a member. "This Council represents a strength to the larger Arab body," he was quoted as saying.

He said there were no obstacles on problems facing the GCC, which also groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman. "If there were problems, we will resolve them in a way that will satisfy us and serve the interests of our countries," he said.

He rejected claims that the birth of new Arab groups weakened the Arab League. "We hope good things from those groups, which I support and believe in its benefit for the Arab nation," he said.

About the Gulf situation and recent changes in Iran, Shaykh Zayid said: "We should be optimistic especially as Iran is our neighbour. It is the duty for the neighbour to do good so that this will be reciprocated."He said he was also satisfied about the experience of the UAE federation.

"I hope support for the federation will continue and develop and the UAE people will enjoy prosperity and happiness because that's our goal," he said.

Leaves for Official UK Visit

JN1707142489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, left Abu Dhabi for Geneva en route to London at noon today. Tomorrow, Shaykh Zayid will begin an official 4-day visit to the United Kingdom on the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Shaykh Zayid will hold talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on a number of Arab, regional, and international issues of common concern in addition to bilateral relations.

Saddam Husayn's Anniversary Speech

JN1707110089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0703 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 21st anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution in Baghdad—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Glorious Iraqis and sons of the great Arab nation, the celebration of the 21st anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution infuses us with pride and happiness. The celebration of this anniversary today adds distinctive aspects to the splendid significance of past celebrations of this anniversary over the past 20 years. The Iraqis today celebrate their revolution's anniversary after having decisively and successfully repulsed the aggression against their territory, dignity, their way of life, and their political, social, and economic achievements.

Through an epic of 8 years, the Iraqis defeated the unjust aggression which had been one of the most serious threats and evils to which they and the Arab nation have been subjected in contemporary history. They also succeeded in imposing a realistic peace on those who had ignited the fire of war, and who exhibited the deepest hatred and the most dangerous expansionist and destructive inclinations. This time last year, while the great Iraqi armies were expelling the invading and covetous forces from the last occupied parts of our beloved country, and while they were reaffirming that the balance had decisively tipped in favor of Iraq after 8 years of fighting on an epic scale, the Iranian regime accepted Resolution 598—after rejecting it for a year, and after it had rejected peace for more than 8 years. The Iranian regime also flouted every UN Security Council resolution and defied other international organizations which had been calling for the settlement of the conflict through peaceful means, and refused to submit to the legitimacy of international law. Following all this, the Iranian regime accepted Resolution 598 after the destruction of its war machine, and its expulsion from our beloved territory which it had occupied for many years—territory which it wanted to maintain as a base for furthering its expansion at the expense of Iraq and other countries in the region.

The Iranian regime's decision to accept the UN Security Council resolution was in line with the principles which we have been maintaining over the years of the conflict. Many thought that the Iranian regime, whatever the circumstances, would never officially accept a halt to the war, and that it would never officially accept a resolution issued by the UN Security Council. Such views prevailed only a few months before the cease-fire and before Iran officially declared its acceptance of Resolution 598.

We believed that the Iranian regime would accept an end to the war when it found that prolonging the war was more detrimental than ending it. This is what actually took place.

Emphasis on these facts now is necessary in outlining a sound basis for the future of our relations, the relations of the countries in the region, and of all our brother Arabs, with Iran. These facts are essential because the Iranian regime, so far, has only accepted the cease-fire. Since the two parties' agreement under the auspices of the UN secretary general on 8 August 1988 on the implementation of the cease-fire as of 20 August 1988 and the initiation of direct negotiations on 25 August 1988, the Iranian regime has not demonstrated readiness to enter into real, serious, and direct negotiations for reaching a just and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and in the region.

As usual, the Iranian regime chose to maneuver, to be selective, and to play with words. It continued to exploit opportunities with this or that international party so it could meddle with the negotiations and exploit the state of no-war no-peace in its bargaining and blackmail and threaten security and stability in the region whenever it chooses.

Iraq's victory over this dangerous aggression was not only the outcome of military and material factors in the war—despite the importance of their role in achieving a unique, historic glory—but was also the result of maintaining a sound political assessment throughout the years of the conflict which accompanied its developments and the near and long circumstances which surrounded it. Therefore, a sound political assessment by us, by our brothers in the region, and by the international community, including the United Nations, is required and, indeed, necessary, so that matters actually proceed toward a comprehensive and permanent peace.

Iraq's insistence in the past that Iran should officially and frankly accept Resolution 598 has brought positive results. We now call on Iran to respect the 8 August 1988 agreement, to follow the path of serious and genuine direct talks, and to affirm clearly its desire to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace. This is a necessity that must be met to make the Iranian regime face up to its responsibilities.

We call on the international community to contribute seriously toward that because leniency toward the Iranian regime's maneuvers will not achieve the objective of the states in the region and the international community of achieving a durable, comprehensive peace.

We must point out that supplying the Iranian regime with any quantities or types of weapons, for whatever reason, will encourage this regime to become further deluded and to embark on adventures, thus threatening security and stability in the entire region.

While confirming our sincere desire, as we did throughout the years of the aggression against our country, to establish a durable, comprehensive peace with Iran, we reaffirm that Iraq will not show leniency toward manipulation over the 8 August agreement on the basis of

which the cease-fire was reached. Iraq will not accept partial solutions or settlements that maintain the no-war, no-peace state between the two sides as this state can be exploited to make threats and extort and destablize the entire region and its security.

The Tehran rulers must not be deluded once again. They must learn the lesson of their defeat after 8 years of illusions and stubbornness. Their defeat was not the result of one factor alone in the equation between them and us. It was a defeat for their entire cause in political, military, and other spheres. It was also a defeat for the urge to impose hegemony, expansion, and power which grips their minds. And it was a defeat for the policy of lies and schemes they have followed and continue to follow with regard to peace and to relations with neighboring states and the world.

If they believe that dealing with one factor of their defeat will tip the balance in their favor and enable them to continue their previous policies and achieve the ambitions they failed to achieve in the past, they must be greatly deluded. They will fall again into the same errors and misjudgments and face the same results.

The approach which the Iranian regime has followed so far in dealing with the peace negotiations after the cease-fire raises doubts about its intentions. Its dealing with the subject of the POW's is clear proof of that. The Iranian regime has refused and still refuses, despite the passage of almost 1 year since the cease-fire, to release the prisoners. Yet, the Geneva convention on POW's and the third paragraph of Resolution 598 clearly and unequivocally stipulate the necessity to release the prisoners after the cease-fire. The Iranian regime's exploitation of the sufferings of tens of thousands of human beings, both Iranians and Iraqis, in an obvious political ploy, reminds us of that regime's readiness to throw all international laws and norms overboard in order to achieve its own designs. It also confirms the lack of credibility in the statements and pledges made by that regime.

I call on the international community to take these facts into account and to watch their behavior closely, not out of partiality toward Iraq, which has already proven that it can defend itself and protect its interests, but in the interest of the principles of international law and the practical requirements for the achievement of lasting peace, security, and stability in the region.

Brave Iraqis, the victory which you have achieved, the glory which you are enjoying today, and your great success in defending your homeland and the honor and future of your nation and safeguarding the great gains which have been achieved under the principles of your revolution over the past 21 years of its victorious march; all that is the fruit of your patience, perseverance, courage, and readiness for sacrifice. It is also the fruit of your creativeness. The entire world recognizes these qualities in you. By God, you deserve all that. As we stand firm in the present phase also, it is our national duty to maintain and develop these spendid qualities further during the reconstruction phase. We must remember that those who attacked us, prompted by their historic grudges and ambitions, were also prompted by their own delusions and miscalculatiuons of Iraq's resources and capabilities. When they find that our resources and capabilities are great, and backed by the vigilance and preparedness of our people and fighters, especially in the Armed Forces, they will desist from repeating their stupidity. The same goes for those who hatch plots against the Arab nation and Iraq and plan aggression against them in various forms.

The era of peace requires a high level of vigilance and readiness. It also calls on us to continue with our program with all determination and perserverance. The last year was characterized by these qualities. With the cease-fire and the high level of capability reached by our Armed Forces, the valiant men maintained their preparedness, training, and expertise. We confidently say that the Iraqi Armed Forces—in all branches—are today more capable and effective in defending the homeland and more ready to crush the aggressor if he lets himself slide into the abyss once again.

The strugglers in the military industrialization field have also maintained their efforts to provide the needs of the Armed Forces in weapons and equipment and in producing new materiel that will reinforce our defense capability and deter those who plan aggression against us. This is in addition to the money which their production has saved—the money that was spent on importing our needs from abroad. We send to them our heartfelt appreciation.

At the same time, the valiant Iraqis have continued actively to accelerate the construction system which did not cease throughout the years in which we were defending the homeland. In the wake of the cease-fire, additional capabilities were provided by the new conditions and the resources that were released from the war.

Praise be to God, we have completed the rehabiliation of the infrastructure of the city of al-Basrah. We have provided the necessities of a modern city whose sons deserve from us every care and appreciation after their sufferings during the years of aggression and in light of their steadfastness in the face of aggressors.

On this occasion, I renew my appreciation for all those who contributed to the al-Basrah reconstruction during an extraordinary period. With the end of the splendid rebuilding of al-Basrah, the construction teams moved to al-Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, to make it look even better than it was before the aggression and occupation—shining on the coast of the Shatt al-'Arab and near the Arabian Gulf, a brilliant

testament to Arab glory in the contemporary age, a testament to Iraqi steadfastness and sincerity during war and construction. We send our heartfelt greetings to those working in al-Faw.

O brothers: Your revolutionary experiment has always been a pioneer in seeking out requirements and development needs even before they become known. In other experiments, problems were complicated and matters became crises until people tried to resolve them. We have always tried to renew and create things. And we did this in the economic and administrative fields. We have laid down the features of our new economic system since 1977. We then tackled what we could in light of the resources available until we began to implement it with high determination and on a large scale 2 years ago, despite the circumstances of the aggression. And today, this system has been established and has achieved many positive results.

On the political level, we are now preparing a new Constitution for the country, concluding the experiment of 21 years of the revolution. We are outlining our future society, which stems from our doctrine, from the outcome of our experiment, and from our view of the requirements of the age.

We are also continuing to draft new laws which will reorganize all aspects of our political life, including the multiplicity of parties and opinions in the press—a multipliticity based on personal initiative and free opinion in order to develop and give a new intellectual, spiritual, and practical impetus to our current march and to strongly express the interests of the masses, as has been the case so far.

The July revolution experiment, which stems from the conscience of the nation and the ideology of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, shall remain alive and active, repudiating exclusivity and rigidity, meeting the needs of the people, and cooperating with the positive elements in our age.

Sons of the great Arab nation, glorious Iraqis: Iraq's decisive and historic victory over the Iranian aggression—aggression which was backed by hostile forces and vicious plans to weaken the Arab nation, undermine its progress, and divide our region—was followed by a completely new phase. The victory in the eastern flank of the Arab homeland coincided with the emergence, escalation, and continuation of the phenomenon of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory. This intifadah has come as a powerful reply not only to Zionist occupation of Palestine, but also to plots to subjugate and split the Arab nation and force it to abandon its historic role.

In February this year, we succeeded with God's help in establishing the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] composed of Jordan, Egypt, the Yemen Arab Republic, and Iraq. The ACC is the result of the victory of strength and awakening in the Arab nation over those who harbor illwill and plot aggression. It is the outcome of the responsible pan-Arab policy pursued by the leaders of the four countries. Its positive effects have been reflected on the entire Arab nation. This is in addition to the other positive factors which have arisen in Arab affairs. We are confident that the ACC will achieve its objectives and carry out its programs in accordance with a firm, objective, and progressive policy serving the interests of its four member states and the Arab nation, as well as Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. One of the positive manifestations of joint Arab action was fraternal Egypt's return to its natural place in the Arab League and the other institutions of joint Arab action. This has enabled the Arabs to continue to interact between their countries and experiments to achieve joint action for the sake of promoting the Arab cause and strengthening the nation's capabilities, backed by the individual efforts of each Arab country according to its own initiative, capability, and ideology until the hope of real Arab unity from the extreme edge of the Arab Maghreb to the extreme edge of the Arab East is achieved.

Brothers, the current stage requires continued and effective Arab political and material support for the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah through all required means. The current stage also requires Arab backing for this people's leadership and the State of Palestine, their proclaimed national institution. Iraq's commitment to supporting the State of Palestine and its leadership and the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah is a constant commitment stemming from profound faith in the unity of destiny and the unity of the Arab nation.

Brothers, the most painful wound in the current Arab situation is the state in Lebanon. The destruction afflicting this Arab country and the killing and oppression to which its sons are subjected stir the Arab conscience. We must in no way keep silent about this situation or appease whoever is responsible for this tragedy. We have clearly and frankly explained our opinion on the situation in Lebanon on all occasions. In the Arab Casablanca summit conference, we voiced our opinion as stipulated by our conscience and our pan-Arab and ethical obligation.

The criminal acts committed by the Syrian regime during its 13 years of actual occupation of that country, its use of terrorism and blackmail, its exposed alliance with Iran in occupying Lebanon and threatening its sovereignty, and its clear alliance with the Zionist occupation forces' efforts to maintain their presence in Lebanon cannot be tackled by silence and appeasement. It is a pan-Arab responsibility toward our brothers in Lebanon and toward the sound relations that must exist and be respected among Arab states to confront the deviant course followed by the Syrian regime toward Lebanon and oppression against this Arab country and all its people's factions and sects.

Iraq most sincerely supports the efforts of the committee set up by the Arab summit and wishes it success in its mission. Iraq embodied this stand through tangible deeds and stands. However, it is clear to us that the Syrian regime, which is the main party responsible for the destruction and fragmentation of Lebanon, continues to insist on its course and its known methods. Like its ally in Tehran, the Syrian regime uses means of deception, exploitation, and maneuvers.

Proceeding from its pan-Arab and ethical responsibilities and from its pan-Arab conscience, Iraq continues to adhere to these principles on Lebanon's sovereignty, national unity, and to all that is required to safeguard its Arab people from the oppression and aggression being exercised against them.

Brothers, although last year was replete with important events and splendid historic achievements, we in the party had to deal with two incidents: the successive loss of two beloved ones, our beloved comrade 'Adnan [Khayrallah] and our beloved teacher Michel 'Aflaq. 'Adnan was one of the best comrades in the march of the party and the July revolution. He was also a brave soldier and an Iraqi and Arab knight. The deceased, may God make him rest in peace, performed his duty to the homeland, the people, and the Armed Forces during the aggression as best as a soldier can do when the country and the fate are endangered. We have wept over him. His comrades and the sons of our people have also wept over him. 'Adnan will continue to live in our minds as a cherished soldier. May God's mercy be upon him. This is God's wish. We come from God, and to Him we return.

God also willed the loss of comrade Michel 'Aflaq, the founder of our party, the vanguard ideologist of the Ba'th, and the inspirer of the Arab pan-Arab march. He was the beacon that illumninated the course of Arab generations for the past decades. His ideology will continue to inspire future generations for a long time to come. Michel 'Aflaq's role in building the party, in the party's course, and in the march of pan-Arabism will remain vivid in the minds of all Ba'thists and loyal Arab nationalists. This great man devoted his entire life to the affirmation of the noble character and ingenuity of the Arab nation, to working for its rebirth and unity, and to confronting the trends and attempts to harm it or to disfigure its essence. He was a great thinker, a unique person, and a staunch struggler. May God have mercy on him. From God we come, and to Him we return.

While honoring these two beloved ones, we also should not forget the role of our beloved martyrs, the men who fell in battle defending the homeland, the people, and honor. After scoring decisive victory over the covetous aggressors, we will continue to incessantly remember our martyrs, even in the most critical stages of our lives. We will continue to remember them with gratitude and appreciation. Our esteem for them will become stronger as time passes and as the opportunities become available for Iraq to achieve a higher status, which without them and the brave soldiers would not have been possible and would have been canceled by the evil fire from the east.

During the many difficult years our country experienced while confronting the aggression, the men of Iraq repulsed the waves of hatred and aggression one after another with their chests. Thanks to their unswerving faith in God, they erected impregnable barriers with their pure bodies to protect Iraq and enable it to pursue its confrontation so that the fires would not spread deep into the Arab homeland and to its sanctities. Thus, these brave and lofty men protected the honor of the Iraqi and Arab women. They also mapped out a brilliant and prosperous future for the millions of people against the trend of evil, aggression, hatred, and backwardness. We will always cherish their memory.

O valiant Iraqis in the Armed Forces, the Popular Army, and in every field of construction, struggle, and creativeness in the great Iraq; O glorious Iraqi women: The years of fighting with the enemies were full of sacrifices, persistence, patience, and creativeness. In all this, you all participated, defended your country, and raised its position. We send to you our heartfelt appreciation and hope that your pride will last, God willing.

In the new stage, these characteristics are still required, and the work is necessary. Praise be to God, our country enjoys self-confidence and has faith and hope in the future. More pride, happiness, and progress are expecting us as well as our sons and future generations. This will be achieved thanks to your work; minds; brave, persistent, and creative spirit; and your deep faith in your objectives and principles of your march.

Let the spirit of al-Qasidiyah with all its meanings remain alive and active in the hearts and minds of all Iraqis and Arabs.

I ask God to safeguard you and grant all your hopes. God listens and responds to our calls.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you, O brothers.

Arens: PLO Encouragement Not Helpful to Peace

TA1707172689 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Eli Nisan, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles: "Today at the Knesset"—recorded]

[Text] [Nisan] [Monitored in progress] ...who said that the prime minister's plan for elections in the territories and the U.S. dialogue with the PLO do not contradict each other?

[Arens] We are in disagreement on this issue. This is well known and there is nothing new about it. We believe that talks held with the PLO by the Americans, as well as others, any attempt to recognize or legitimate the PLO, anything that could upgrade their image is not helping the peace process. It makes it more difficult for us. We are trying now to create conditions such that the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip feel free to run, participate, present their candidacy for elections. At present this is not the situation. This is not the situation because of PLO terror against the Palestinian populace in the area. Therefore, any encouragement for this terror organization, the PLO, is simply not helping.

[Nisan] Recently, both you and the prime minister have held meetings with notables from the territories. What messages have you conveyed to them, and what did you hear from them concerning the government's peace initiative?

[Arens] I do not hold these meetings to exchange messages. What we want and what we offer is out in the open for everyone to see. There is no need to meet anyone for this purpose. Anyone can get the messages from the media. I hold the meetings to study the moods among the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and to assess the chances of holding free and democratic elections in which people do not fear to run or vote.

Jerusalem 'Not Part' of Plan

TA1707190289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens stressed that the peace initiative supports elections in which the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip would participate. Jerusalem is not part of these areas, said the foreign minister. Minister Arens made the remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He added that if somebody wants to amend the government decision, he will have to propose an amendment. Our Knesset correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports:

The major part of the session was devoted to the peace initiative. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister disclosed that he asked the foreign ministers of the seven countries who convened in Paris to express support for the initiative, but he did not receive a response.

A solution to the conflict, the foreign minister said, is based on two foundations: Our ability to deter, and our ability to negotiate with an involved party—with the inhabitants of the territories on the future of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, or with Syria on issues involving it. We will not, for instance, conduct negotiations with Algeria on Lebanon. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Report Contacts With PLO Intensify

TA1807094289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jul 89 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] In the past few months many figures from the territories have met with the PLO's top echelons. Some of the meetings were held in Tunis, while others took place at conferences arranged by various European organizations.

This was reported yesterday by leading Palestinian sources in the territories, who stressed that Israel has been aware of these meetings. The sources noted that as a result of the opening of many communication channels, contacts between the leadership of the territories and the PLO heads have been intensifying.

The Palestinian sources said that there is a feeling in the territories that Israel not only turns a blind eye to the meetings, but actually encourages them. The sources noted that on many occasions, meetings with PLO figures are being reported to Israel and parallel reports on contacts held in Israel are being handed to the PLO.

The sources noted that the Egyptian Embassy in Israel has recently been very active in the territories. The activity involves meetings with figures from various levels and often includes relaying information from the PLO. The sources said that the activities of Egyptian Embassy personnel can definitely be viewed as mediation between the residents of the territories and the PLO and between the PLO and Israel.

The sources added that various notables from the territories have been invited to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry for meetings that have been used for talks with PLO leaders in Cairo.

The meetings that have recently been held abroad, mainly in Europe, are more often than not coordinated with the PLO. Israelis, residents from the territories, and PLO heads are invited to attend conferences, and these often become the setting for a dialogue between the

participants. Defense sources maintain that inviting Israelis to such meetings legitimizes the contacts between the residents of the territories and the PLO leaders.

In a conversation with a YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent yesterday, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said that "without granting the residents of East Jerusalem the right to participate in elections in the territories, there is no chance of holding such elections." Frayj stressed that for the residents of the territories, the participation of the residents of East Jerusalem in the elections is a crucial condition which comes before any other.

Frayj claimed that the recent meetings Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens have been holding with notables from the territories are, in fact, useless, because "in the current state of affairs in the territories, not a single leader would accept an Israeli proposal without PLO authorization or without first consulting the organization and receiving its consent."

Editorial Urges Advancing Initiative

TA0707140489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Attacking Civilians and Peace"]

[Text] With at least fourteen Jewish bus passengers lying dead, and many more injured, in an act of murder by an apparently hate-crazed Arab passenger, the first thought is naturally of condign punishment and tighter security. Most everyone would agree that everything legally doable must be done to prevent the recurrence of such outrages. It is plainly unthinkable that the spillover of the intifadah [uprising] into Israel proper should threaten so vital a national artery as the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway.

At a time like this, the prospects, if they still exist, of eventual Israeli-Palestinian partnership in peace may be further from the mind than ever. The big question is whether they will so remain. Those who plan and perpetrate such outrages no doubt hope that people's minds will never cease to be preoccupied with thoughts of mutual detestation and hostility. For where there is no will for peaceful accommodation, murder, terror and war are the inevitable consequences.

Israel is formally committed to the search for peace with its Arab neighbours, not least with the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. On Wednesday [6 July] the democratic policymaking body of the ruling Likud Party, its 2,400-strong central committee, is said to have adopted, by a unanimous show of hands, the peace initiative already endorsed by the government nearly two months earlier. That is one view of what the committee did.

The alternative view is that the committee did nothing but disfigure the initiative, thus very nearly killing any chance that American mediation could turn it into an acceptable basis for an agreed Palestinian solution.

If this is so, the one thing the initiative will not produce is peace with the belligerent Palestinians, nor for that matter with the rest of the Arab nations. The choice before the country will then be to see the intifadah continue or to end its protracted agony by means that are not normally associated with Israel, and are not likely to meet with particularly strong external approval.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who shares credit for the initiative with Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, vigorously denies that it is so.

The joint resolution that he and his three challengers, Ari'el Sharon, David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i, co-authored, and that the central committee approved, is only restatement of the initiative, of the government's policy guidelines, and of the Likud's electoral programme, Mr. Shamir insists. There is nothing in it that does not reflect his own widely publicized views, and it certainly does not represent, as has been charged, rank capitualation to three senior anti-initiative Likud ministers.

Whether such apologetics can still save the peace initiative remains to be seen.

The whole idea of the scheme, as of the Camp David autonomy plan, on which it is purportedly based, is to allow the explosive issue of the territories to be put off until after the Palestinians have experienced elected self-rule; and to permit a negotiation of the procedures for setting up a transitional self-governing authority. But if the terms of the final settlement and the procedural rules for the transition period are defined in advance and as ultimatums, the initiative becomes a political diktat. It then loses the political logic, and appeal it might otherwise have.

That is what Mr. Shamir, in a startling act of submission and reversal of his earlier position, let the central committee do. Potentially cooperative Palestinians were served clear notice that there would be only one political option ever available to them: Autonomy under Israel's sovereign rule. To remove any misunderstanding about the binding character of the party resolution, all Likud ministers and Knesset deputies were advised that they are bound by its provisions.

It is, of course, possible to claim that the resolution is a victory for Mr. Shamir and a ringing reaffirmation of "his" initiative. That is the version which Washington, in its anxiety to keep the hope of a peace momentum alive, and the PLO tagging along, opted for in its early responses. With the leverage it exercises over Israel, the U.S. may conceivably still turn such wishful-thinking into fact.

Yet every such event, like yesterday's dastardly attack against the bus, narrows diplomatic options by infuriating the country and hardening sentiments against the possibility of compromise. However, the government, if it can still remain intact after the Likud amendments, must rise above such levels of emotion, and pursue whatever openings remain for political resolution of the conflict with the Palestinians.

Soviet Union Help on Initiative Requested

TA1707101689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Israel has informed the Soviet Union that the Likud decisions have not changed the government's initiative.

This message was conveyed through diplomatic channels abroad at the end of last week. The Israeli diplomat who conveyed the message said that the government remains committed to the peace initiative as approved, and asked for the Kremlin's support in persuading Arab countries to accept it.

Arye Der'i, Sephardic Leaders Depart for Cairo

TA1807062689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] The former Sephardi chief rabbi, 'Ovadya Yosef, and top leaders of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz and Interior Minister Arye Der'i, flew last night to Egypt for a two-day visit at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

A spokesman for the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv said the trip had been arranged because it was hoped that Sephardim would be a bridge between Arabs and Jews in the pursuit of peace.

Der'i will be carrying a message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Mubarak. It is thought that the communication from Shamir reiterates that the government's diplomatic initiative has not been altered by the Likud Central Committee.

The group will meet tomorrow with Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid. It was Al-Majid who extended the invitation to the group during a visit here earlier this year. The invitation was repeated last month during the visit of Minister of State Butrus Ghali. [passage omitted]

Concern Over 'Deteriorating' Jordanian Situation

TA1607100889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Jul 89 p 17

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[Text] Israeli sources expressed their concern this week over the deterioration of the political and economic situation in Jordan. According to these sources the continuing rapid devaluation of the Jordanian dinar can only mean more bad news. They do not discount the possibility of new riots erupting throughout Jordanian cities, adding that this time their extent could be more widespread, and constitute a real danger to the throne.

Israel has a long-standing interest in King Husayn's continued rule, which guarantees quiet borders and open bridges with Israel—along with an implicit mutual agreement of no hostilities. Jerusalem has anxiously followed the news of Husayn's heart attack and subsequent condition out of a general concern for the well-being of the Hashemite monarchy in the event of King Husayn's death.

It is estimated that power would be smoothly transferred to Crown Prince Hasan, the heir to the throne, but there is no guarantee that Husayn's demise would not lead to widespread rioting in the country and a loss of control.

Labor Ministry: Unemployment 'Rising Steadily'

TA1707101589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 89 p 5

[Text] Unemployment has passed the 9 percent mark and is rising steadily, according to senior officials of the personnel planning division at the Labour Ministry.

By the end of the year, the Ministry predicts, the unemployment rate will pass 10 percent for the first time since the 1965-1967 recession.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter stood at 8.3 percent, representing about 140,000 persons, including about 50,000 who have applied for unemployment benefits.

The Labour Ministry has drafted a plan to fight unemployment, which was tabled at the cabinet several weeks ago by Deputy Labour Minister Rabbi Ze'ev Feldman. Finance Minister Shim'on Peres had opposed including the issue in the cabinet agenda at the time, claiming the Treasury would prepare a plan of its own to encourage employment.

$300 Million Loss in Boycott of Local Produce

TA1807140089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin says that since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] the Israeli economy has lost over $300 million as a result of the

boycott of Israeli produce by residents of the territories. In addition to this, there was a decline of 2 percent in the GNP. Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Dr Beilin revealed this data during a meeting with a visiting delegation of the Israel Bonds Young Leadership Conference.

Milo: 'Jamming' of Jibril Radio Station Resumed

TA1707164089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Israel is again jamming the transmissions from Syria of the radio station of Ahmad Jibril's organization, Minister Roni Milo said this evening in a reply to a parliamentary query by Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan. Minister Milo added that the jamming had stopped for a time because of technical difficulties that have since been overcome.

Replying to a question by Knesset member Tzahi Hanegbi, Milo denied that the prime minister has prevented the detention of Dr Sari Nusaybah and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, who were mentioned in connection to the distribution of funds for the uprising.

Soldier Jailed for Refusing Service in Gaza

TA1807081989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 89 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Eyal Qor was sentenced yesterday to 28 days in prison for refusing to serve in the Gaza Strip, according to a Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] spokesman. Qor was one of several twelfth graders who had sent a letter a year ago to Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, refusing to serve in the territories. Since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] 77 soldiers, mostly reservists, have been sentenced to imprisonment for refusing to serve beyond the Green Line.

New Group Threatens Fatah Supporters

TA1707171489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpt] A leaflet sharply attacking several prominent Fatah supporters in the territories was disseminated in Nabulus today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports:

The leaflet was signed by a body calling itself the Palestinian Popular Army Command, which is unknown to Nabulus residents. The leaflet sharply attacks several Palestinian public figures, led by Dr Sari Nusaybah. Why did the lord doctor [preceding two words in English] run away, the leaflet asked sarcastically. It accuses him of running away from the country and having a good time at the expense of the Palestinians. Why was he permitted to leave the country after it was learned that he served as a messenger for the distribution of PLO funds, the leaflet asks. It charges Dr Nusaybah with aiding Israel, and embezzling funds that he was meant to distribute.

The two other Palestinians are not named, but they can be easily identified. The person called the wandering journalist is Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the head of the Arab Journalists Association in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Arab residents identified the other as Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, the editor of the Hebrew-language newspaper GESHER [BRIDGE]. The leaflet said both attacked intifadah [uprising] loyalists in the past through incitement and firebombs.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash called on the leaflet's authors to identify themselves. He cannot point to any definite sector, he told me this evening, but he thinks they are extremists or agents who want to sow discord in Palestinian society. They will not, however, scare off those who support the political process, he said.

The leaflet, disseminated following attempts to assassinate Fatah leaders, reflects and strengthens the internal conflict in the territories in the wake of the political process. The process is opposed by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine supporters, especially in Nabulus, on the one hand, and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, on the other. [passage omitted]

'Suspected' Collaborator Murdered 14 Jul

TA1607093089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Jul 89 p 6

[Report by Mikhal Qedem and Oren Kohen]

[Excerpts] In a stormy weekend in the Gaza Strip refugee camps, two youths were killed by soldiers' fire, several dozen were wounded, and two locals suspected of collaborating with the authorities were murdered. [passage omitted]

Arab sources have reported that several people were wounded in the village of Bayt Lahiyah, al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, and the Khan Yunus refugee camp where Karim Abu-Nammush (8) was severely wounded in the throat.

Muhammad Hamid al-Masri, a 20-year-old resident of the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah, was murdered Friday by a group of masked persons wielding metal bars and rocks. Al-Masri was suspected by the local strike force committee of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Arab sources reported that on Saturday four Rafah residents were beaten up by strike force committee members who suspected them too of collaboration with the authorities. Among the wounded was a 30-year-old woman. The four were hospitalized in Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus in moderate to serious condition. [passage omitted]

In the village of Shuwaykah a march was held in which some 70 people carried flags and axes, and called on loudspeakers for the collaborators to repent. [passage omitted]

5 Wounded in Unrest in Territories 17 Jul

TA1707201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] There were five casualties in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today. In the Tulkarm area, two youths were wounded during disturbances and the setting up of road blocks. Two youths were wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp, and one in Rafah. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the reports on casualties.

There was a general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today.

More on Incidents

TA1807072289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Jul 89 p 7

[Report by Mikhal Qedem, Oren Kohen, and Claude Aflalo]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, another uprising day in the territories, 19 residents were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire. [passage omitted]

A general strike to protest prison conditions for security prisoners took place yesterday in the Gaza Strip. Arab sources reported three youths wounded by gunfire in isolated riots throughout the day. Of these, two were 14 year olds from Jabalyah who were hospitalized in al-Shifa'. A 16 year old was hospitalized in al-Nasir Hospital in Rafah. Curfews remained in effect in the Khan Yunus and Jabalyah refugee camps and in parts of Gaza's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood.

The atmosphere in the Gaza Strip heated up in the late afternoon, and Arab sources reported 15 gunshot injuries in severe incidents in the al-Shati' and Khan Yunus refugee camps, in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, in Jabalyah, and in Rafah. The wounded included a 9-year-old boy from Khan Yunus and an 8 year old from al-Shati, both shot in the head, and a 17-year-old youth from al-Shati' who was transferred in critical condition to al-Shifa' Hospital. The Arab sources contended that the incidents broke out when the soldiers tried to enforce the evening curfew. The IDF spokesman reported no injuries.

Ra'idah 'Isa (15) from Jerusalem, who was critically injured 2 days ago when the car in which she was riding was stoned, yesterday died of her wounds at Hadassah-'En-Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. On Sunday, 'Isa was riding in a car driven by her mother when the vehicle was stoned from the direction of the village of al-'Ayzariyah, east of Jerusalem. The car overturned and the girl was fatally injured in the head.

A general strike prevailed yesterday in the West Bank, in accordance with a call issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The day passed quietly, with the exception of an incident in which a 15-year-old resident of the village of 'Anabta was wounded in his left thigh. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English in a report by Joshua Brilliant on page 12 adds that "West Bank settlers yesterday burst into one of the halls at the Cave of Makhpela in Hebron, threw aside Muslim prayer rugs, and danced until troops forced them out. One of the demonstrators attacked a soldiers, a police spokesman said, adding that three demonstrators were detained and two were subsequently released. The IDF spokeswoman in Jerusalem said she had no details and one of the demonstrators denies there was a fight."]

IDF Uses Hidden Cameras in W. Bank Incidents

TA1807103689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently started using a new measure against rioters in Judaea and Samaria: Hidden video cameras. So far, several rioters have been detained after being videotaped without their knowledge. Sources in the IDF say that this adds another dimension to the sophisticated war now being waged against the intifadah [uprising].

The cameras are being set up at problematic sites, such as main streets and markets where Arabs throw stones and bottles and then hide in the crowd. They are to be used in isolated incidents and not in demonstrations. To date, the IDF has been unable to identify stone throwers who have taken advantage of the general commotion.

The cameras make it possible to film stone throwers in real time, allowing nearby soldiers to detain them on the spot and providing evidence against them. [passage omitted]

Avino'am Bar-Yosef reports: Sources in the territories said that last weekend, a local resident of the 'Aqabat Jabr refugee camp threw two hand grenades and opened fire at dozens of demonstrators who attacked him, claiming that he collaborates with the authorities. More than 20 locals were reportedly wounded in the incident, some of them seriously.

IMF To Provide $80 Million Loan

JN1707155089 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Amman, 17 Jul (PETRA)—The IMF board of directors decided when it convened on 14 July 1989 to grant Jordan a loan of approximately $80 million to support Jordan's economic restructuring program devised in consultation with the fund.

The overhaul plan seeks to create the right climate for resuming the development process within the framework of monetary stability coupled with achieving an improvement in the status of the general state budget on the one hand and realizing an improvement in the balance of payments on the other.

The decision marks a major step step toward helping the Jordanian Government take the necessary measures to regulate its relations with foreign creditors, including creditor nations. The IMF decision to grant Jordan the loan is a clear indication that Jordan's economic restructuring program is workable and its implementation should help Jordan secure the requisite hard currency to meet its requirements of commodities and services between 1989 and 1993. The program, on the other hand, seeks to support the state general budget and gradually reduce the state treasury's dependence on foreign support to cut the deficit in the general budget from approximately 23 percent of the gross national product in 1989 to approximately 6 percent of the GNP in 1993.

The Joranian delegation, which is to request a rescheduling of government debts owed to foreign governments, has arrived in Paris. It is led by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and also includes Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz, Central Bank Governor Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, and his deputy, Michel Martu. The delegation will discuss with the Paris Club rescheduling Jordan's government debts with foreign creditor nations. The 30-member club is a body concerned with looking into Third World debts to industrialized nations.

An initial agreement to reschedule the government loans that Jordan is due to repay over 1989-1990 is expected to be signed with the club members.

It is noteworthy that a Jordanian delegation headed by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah met in London at the beginning of July with representatives of the commercial banks that had provided Jordan with commercial loans. These banks set up a committee to negotiate with the Jordanian Government, and Jordan has begun negotiations with these banks to reschedule their loans due to be repaid over 1989-1990. A meeting is scheduled to be held during August to prepare a memorandum of understanding with these foreign banks to organize the bases of rescheduling.

The process of rescheduling is considered a cornerstone complementary to the process of economic readjustment.

Interior, Supply Ministers Discuss Price Controls

JN1707143489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jul 89 p 2

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Excerpts] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has said that the trial of merchants and hoarders who were recently caught monopolizing and hoarding foodstuffs in large quantities will begin in the court martial today.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, the minister said: The inspection campaigns will continue and deterrent measures will be taken against anyone who contemplates tampering with the people's food.

Masa'idah chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry on the 2d day of 'Id al-Adha [14 July] attended by the supply minister and other senior officials to discuss an amendment to the supply law granting the ministry and its employees wider powers to control stores, arrest violators, and the possibility of setting up a special court for cases dealing with supply. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyub said: The vast majority of merchants are cooperating and are appreciative of the circumstances experienced by the homeland. They recently supplied the market with sufficient quantities of foodstuffs to meet the excessive demand, especially since the merchants are certain that the foodstuffs are available in large quantities and that there will be no increase in prices.

Ayyub added that after campaigns by the Supply Ministry with the cooperation of the Public Security Department, basic foodstuffs are now available to citizens in all shops and in sufficient amounts. [passage omitted]

Ayyub continued: Many citizens and merchants have informed the ministry of large quantities of foodstuffs that are being hoarded, and they guided the ministry to some stores outside the capital and other stores belonging to some factories.

Ayyub said: The control operations that have been carried out are only the beginning of a series of continuous campaigns to ensure the availability of foodstuffs and to prevent monopoly. [passage omitted]

'Awn 'Agents' Interrogated, Expelled From Cyprus

NC1307152789 Nicosia MESIMVRINI in Greek 12 Jul 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] Three Lebanese Christian military men, members of the secret agencies of Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn, were arrested by the Cyprus police and expelled following exhaustive interrogation.

The Lebanese major and two privates were arrested last Sunday morning in Limassol after close surveillance by members of the Aliens Department and the Central Intelligence Service.

The three agents of Gen Michel 'Awn arrived in Cyprus on 7 June [as published], via Larnaca airport, claiming that tourism was the purpose of their visit.

The major and the two privates who accompanied him, all of whom are on active duty, had been located as part of a large-scale manhunt launched by the security authorities to locate the unknown passengers of the Israeli yacht that was found without a crew in the Kalamaradhes area off the Xylophaghou coast within the boundaries of the British base of Dhekelia.

The Cyprus Central Intelligence Service has information from a reliable source that the three Lebanese Christian military men had arrived in Cyprus to study or direct a plan to kidnap and assassinate the six Lebanese Muslims who were arrested in the area of the Larnaca International Airport on 28 May with two SAM ground-to-air missiles and other heavy weapons in their possession.

The six Lebanese Muslim terrorists, who are detained at the Nicosia central prisons under strict and rigorous security measures, had arrived in Cyprus illegally aboard small dinghies to assassinate Gen Michel 'Awn, who was to have landed at Larnaca Airport from Lebanon aboard his own helicopter.

VOL Updates Security Situation 18 Jul

NC1807070089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Guarded calm is prevailing on the combat lines and where clashes and shelling took place, beginning late last night and continuing intermittently until dawn today.

The Syrians began shelling the Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts at approximately 0050 today. The shelling soon expanded to neighboring residential areas. The shelling came from the Syrian positions in the North, West Beirut, and al-Mughithi in Upper al-Matn.

At 0210, northern and central al-Matn came under Syrian rocket fire. The Greek Catholic Bishopric building in Sabtiyah was hit by several projectiles. Earlier, several shells fell in the vicinity of al-Ashrafiyah and the fringes of al-'Adliyah.

At 0320, shells hit the areas of al-Rawdah, Sabtiyah, and al-Dikwanah on the al-Matn coast. At 0330, the Kasrawan and al-Matn coasts came under rocket fire. At 0350, the Syrians shelled the Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts.

As a result of these attacks on the residential quarters in the eastern area, the army retaliated by shelling the sources of fire in a concentrated manner in order to silence them. Sources in West Beirut said some shells fell on al-Rawshah, the military beach, and 'Ayn al-Muraysah.

In another development, clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets took place on the al-Matahin and al-Barid combat lines in Beirut's southern suburb for approximately 30 minutes at 0230 today. Similar clashes had earlier taken place on the mountain combat lines at approximately 2200 last night.

Army Mountain Positions Under Attack

NC1807093789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0918 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have been coming under mortar attacks for some time.

Clashes broke out along the mountain combat lines 15 minutes ago.

Israeli Forces, Militiamen Shell Towns in South

NC1707113389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] A security source in the south has reported that the Amal Movement's positions on Buslayya hill came under 12.7-mm sniper fire and 82-mm shelling from Israeli and agent militia positions on the hills overlooking the area around midnight last night.

The towns of Frun and al-Ghanduriyah came under 150-mm artillery shelling from the positions held by the occupation forces in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah yesterday. The shelling caused only property damage.

People arriving from the occupied town of Dayr Siryan have stated that Israeli forces and Lahd's militiamen stormed Dayr Siryan a short time ago, searched houses, and assaulted a shepherd from the Ibrahim family, burning the contents of his house. They also threatened any resident who is proved to have any connection with resistance fighters with the same fate. The shepherd sustained fractures and bruises and was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Amal Radio Details Fighting in South

NC1807100289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Resistance fighters detonated an explosive device as a patrol of the Zionist enemy and his agents was passing on the military road in the al-Suwayda' area inside the occupied border strip at dawn today. The patrol members were wounded.

Immediately afterward, Zionist occupation forces raked the area around the scene of the operation with automatic weapons and artillery.

Resistance fighters also detonated an explosive device as an occupation forces patrol was passing in the Zummarayya area last night. An armored car was damaged, and two members of its crew were wounded.

Reports received from the south said that three vehicles belonging to the Zionist occupation forces advanced to 2 km north of Zummarayya crossing point at 0600 today and combed the Mimis sector. Enemy artillery near Marj 'Uyun and tanks positioned in Abu-Qamhah bombarded the same area last night. Occupation forces also shelled the towns of Qabrikha and Majdal Silm last night, wounding four citizens who were taken to the hospital for treatment.

'Zionist' Tank Reportedly Hit by Explosive Charge

NC1707152789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] In the resisting south, a group from the Islamic Resistance set off an explosive charge at 1400 today, hitting a Zionist Merkava tank near al-Tayyibah, killing or injuring its eight-man crew. Immediately afterward, Zionist helicopters began combing the area for resistance fighters as a state of panic and confusion gripped the enemy soldiers.

1 Killed, 10 Wounded in Israeli Tank Attacks

NC1807055489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Israeli enemy forces have used tanks to bombard the towns of Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, and Tulin. One citizen was martyred and 10 others wounded.

REUTER has cited security sources in Frun as saying that the bombardment came in the wake of an attack launched by resistance fighters against an Israeli position in the border strip.

Syrians Bring in Helicopters, Build Airstrips

NC1707174989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Arrivals from central al-Biqa' have told the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY that the Syrian forces have brought French-made Gazelle helicopters to the Riyaq air base of the Lebanese Air Force. They said that the Syrian forces are building a number of airstrips near 'Anjar and al-Masna' near the Syrian border.

Syrians Gunboats Divert Ship to North

NC1707175189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrians today intercepted a ship and diverted it to the north, according to AKHBAR AL-YAWM NEWS AGENCY which cited security sources. The agency said that Syrian gunboats this morning intercepted a ship carrying foodstuffs to East Beirut sailing 35 miles from the Lebanese coast and diverted it to the north.

'Awn Comments on Statement by U.S. Envoy

NC1707062689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy has reiterated that any solution to the Lebanese problem cannot be a military one and that Washington opposes any military confrontation. Regarding the FROG missiles, the U.S. ambassador said that Lebanon is too small for such weapons.

Responding to U.S. Ambassador McCarthy's call for moderation and his assertion that violence does not solve problems, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said that it was Syria which opened fire at the eastern ports and that he is acting on the basis of self-defense. Despite his positive initiatives, 'Awn added, Syria maintained its blockade to harass the Lebanese. He said that while he agrees with the U.S. statement that violence does not solve problems, he wondered if the daily Syrian shelling, the tightening of the blockades, and the exertion of all forms of pressure cannot be considered violence and if Lebanon has no right to retaliate to defend itself.

Sutaytiyah Meets With U.S., French, Soviet Envoys

NC1807082589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Acting on a directive from Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, [acting foreign minister secretary general] Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah held consultations yesterday with U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy, French ambassador Rene Ala, and Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha regarding renewing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operating in the South.

Ambassadors McCarthy and Ala notified Sutaytiyah that their countries support the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate for 6 more months.

Ambassador Sutaytiyah will continue his consultations with the ambassadors and representatives of the five major powers. He will contact British Ambassador Allan Ramsey for this purpose. He will also meet with the PRC charge d'affaires on Thursday.-

Ambassador Sutaytiyah has noted that some obstacles are facing the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate for more months. He indicated that some financing countries have reservations, especially as several UN forces have been recently formed to assume peacekeeping duties in various parts of the world. Sutaytiyah added that the main reason for these reservations is the security of UNIFIL forces in south Lebanon as a result of the recurrent Israeli provocations and attacks on them.

Al-Shar' Receives Lebanese Interior Minister

JN1707165489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has received Lebanese Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi. They talked about the situation in Lebanon and the three-member Arab Committee's efforts to implement the Casablanca summit resolution in its security and political aspects.

Both emphasized that the blockade, in the human and supply sense, has ceased to be in existence since the nationalist movement reopened all the crossings and Beirut Airport. Contrary arguments advanced by the east Beirut-based opponents of a political solution of the Lebanese crisis seek an unsupervised reopening of the ports to bring in arms and reignite the civil war for which the Lebanese people have paid dearly in lives and property.

Al-Shar' stressed that, led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria will not forsake Lebanon in its endeavor to restore stability, security, and national reconciliation. He further emphasized that Syria adheres to the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon and urges that it be honored and that every possible effort be made toward its implementation.

Afghanistan

Fighting Continues Near Jalalabad 15 Jul

BK1507090389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, fighting continues between mujahidin and the Kabul regime's forces near the eastern city of Jalalabad. Reports say that since the recapture of Samar Kheyl garrison the mujahidin have advanced 2 km toward Jalalabad and are engaged in fierce fighting near (Siracha) bridge. The mujahidin have captured three posts in Nader Shah Kowt, Domandi, and (Bradin) Districts in the south and southwest of Khowst in Paktia Province.

Mujahidin Capture KHAD Post Near Jalalabad

BK1707141889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas have captured an important secret police post and three smaller government held positions near the eastern ciy of Jalalabad, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Monday [17 July].

About 100 resistance guerrillas late Sunday attacked and captured the posts in the city's suburban Seracha District, the pro-mujahidin news agency said.

The mujahidin, backed by long-range rockets and artillery, also destroyed four tanks and captured nine in the fighting.

The rebels found three bodies at the KHAD secret police post, AIP said, adding that one guerrilla was killed and two injured during the fighting.

The news agency also claimed that the mujahidin were in control of the Samar Kheyl garrison some 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) southeast of Jalalabad.

The Afghan Armed Forces recaptured the garrison earlier this month and took foreign journalists to visit it.

In related developments the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said mujahidin guerrillas had downed four government helicopters during the past two days around Gardeyz, capital of eastern Paktia Province.

Muslim guerrillas on Saturday attacked a security post near the airport in southern Qandahar city killing eight soldiers, resistance sources said, adding that one mujahidin fighter was killed.

More on Capture of Post

BK1707162289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin have occupied an important post (Pargan), southeast of Jalalabad, and have shot down three helicopters and an aircraft of the Kabul regime. The fall of the post forced Kabul troops to withdraw from the area. Two helicopters were shot down in Qandahar and one in Nangarhar Province. The aircraft was shot down near Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister of the Islamic Afghan interim government, Mr Golbuddin Hekmatyar, has said the strength of mujahidin fighting for Jalalabad was sufficient and no new reinforcements were required.

Mujahidin Attack Ammunition Depot at Qarghah

BK1807024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports, the Afghan mujahidin carried out a large-scale attack on the Kabul regime's ammunition depot at Qarghah near the capital, triggering a number of blasts and a massive fire. Reports say that the fire continued till late in the evening. However, no losses or casualties were immediately known. Qarghah, situated 10 km north of Kabul, is the headquarters of the Kabul regime Armed Forces' eighth division.

It has also been reported that the mujahidin have captured an important secret police post and three [word indistinct] positions of the Kabul regime near Jalalabad.

Najibullah Lauds Forces in Herat, Balkh Provinces

LD1707082989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 16, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah, the high command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in a message sent to the defence council and commanders of Herat and Balkh Provinces expressing his gratitude to the leadership of the provinces and their supreme councils, for the contribution of tribal detachments with the units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [as received]. The voluntary participation of the personnel of Armed Forces and [words indistinct]. This is also a salient example of national unity demonstrated by the people of Afghanistan in securing national unity in defending the independence and territorial integrity of the country the messages say.

The High Command calls on the inhabitants and the personnel of Armed Forces to promote ever-further their political consciousness and military preparedness and to play their patriotic role in defending the independence, territorial integrity and the disclosure of the enemy's faces the messages concluded.

Wakil Urges UN Action on Pakistan's 'New Plot'

LD0507083589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 4, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, in a message addressed to Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, has drawn the latter's attention to the new

offensive plot hatched by Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis and the Afghan opposition armed extremists against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The message says that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has repeatedly informed the United Nations Organisation that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have given a dangerous dimension to the war by sending its regular Army and war mercenaries into the territory of Afghanistan. As it has become known the offensive of the armed opposition, Pakistani Army and Saudi mercenaries against Jalalabad, Qandahar and Khowst cities were rebuffed and their futile ambition of military occupation of these regions were foiled.

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in a declaration released on July 1, proclaimed that on the basis of information received here the Pakistani militarymen have hatched a new plot for simultaneous aggressions against several provinces including the Kabul city and want to put their plot into practice in mid-July.

This has been planned in a bid to compensate their defeat in Nangarhar, Khowst and Qandahar. Under the present dangerous conditions when we are faced with new offensive from abroad, we are compelled to take all the necessary measures for the rebuffal [as received] of such aggressive offensive for the cause of defending the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.

The people and Armed Forces of Afghanistan, the message indicates, are possessing the capability to foil any such aggressions and to inflict a crushing blows on invaders, the grave consequences of which rest with the designers of such an aggressive plot. Based on the international norms and charter of the United Nations Organisation, it is the legitimate rights of any country to defend itself against aggression and we will use our right in an appropriate manner.

The Afghan foreign minister in his message appeals to the UN secretary general to make his good offices towards the prevention of such adventuristic plots as well as for securing peace and security in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Afghan foreign minister has requested the UN secretary general to refer the case to the UN Security Council for immediate action.

Najibullah Message to Nonaligned Movement

LD1507073289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 14, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the intensification of Pakistani invasions against Afghanistan, has sent a message addressed to Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) today.

The message says that, recently, Pakistani authorities have resorted to danger military measures against Afghanistan, which reflect Pakistani policy aimed at solving Afghan issue through military means.

It is clear now, the message adds, the pre-planned invasions are being directly done by Pakistani military experts. From May 2 till July 8th 106682 [number as received] rockets have been fired on Afghanistan's cities including Kabul which resulted in killing 757 persons, and injured 1752 others.

The message stated that such vast operations show that, extremists groups which have [been] severely defeated recently, are unable to launch such actions, these actions add more to the intensification of tension in south-eastern Asia, and will bring about dangerous results.

Our loyalty to the NAM and my deep respect to you Mr Chairman of the NAM, demand that to adopt necessary measures, in order to put pressures on Pakistan to end its interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, otherwise, Afghanistan will not be responsible for the aftermath grave consequences.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Addis Ababa 16 Jul

LD1707081889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 16, BAKHTAR—An Afghan delegation headed by 'Abdul Wakil foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan left Kabul today for Addis Ababa to participate at the work of the session of foreign affairs ministers and heads of member states of the African Unity Organisation (AUO).

The AUO has invited the Afghan foreign minister to participate in the sessions in (?Addis Ababa) as a guest.

Najibullah Cables China's Yang on Geneva Accords

LD1807090989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 17, BAKHTAR—As you are aware the signing of the Geneva accords in relation to the situation in Afghanistan were welcomed by all world states, including the People's Republic of China, says message of President Najibullah, addressed to Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China today. Unfortunately Pakistan one of the signatories of the accords has not paid any heed towards its fulfilment. On the contrary after the coming into force of the Geneva accords especially after the return of the Soviet forces Pakistan has further intensified its aggressions against the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), the message adds.

The state of the RA is in the opinion that the People's Republic of China which is an influential country in Asia, without doubt your personal and your govenrment role is of high value for the ensurance of peace in Afghanistan, the message adds.

"Realising this fact I request the Chinese leadership that through the use of its credit and prestige which enjoys in the world arena prevent further Pakistani aggressions in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and play its role for the ensurance of peace in our country and the region," the message concludes.

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns From French Revolution Ceremonies

BK1607171489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] President Ershad returned home this morning from Paris after attending the bicentennial celebrations of the French Revolution. He was accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. The vice president, the prime minister, deputy prime minister, ministers, the chiefs of three services, the French ambassador, and high civil and military officials received him at the airport.

Our representative says President Ershad was among the 30 heads of state and governments invited by President Mitterrand to attend the bicentennial celebrations.

During his stay in Paris, Preisident Ershad discussed bilateral issues with President Mitterrand and leaders of other countries besides holding talks on international matters of common concern.

Opposition Assails Move To Amend Constitution

BK0807095089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 8 (AFP)—Leading Bangladeshi opposition parties have criticised a proposed government bill limiting the number of presidential terms, calling it a step to "prolong the rule" of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia said that the proposed constitutional amendment, entered in parliament Thursday, was "only a ploy to prolong the rule of the present government."

The BNP's secretary-general, Salam Talukder, said in a statement that the present regime was "illegal" and that it had no right to amend the country's Constitution.

Gen Ershad came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup.

Kamal Hussain, a former foreign minister and a top leader of the opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, opposed the amendment saying that "the hasty imposition of the bill suddenly produced like a rabbit from a magician's hat, shows contempt for the people, the Constitution and democracy."

Mr Hussain, a barrister, said the Constitution could only be amended by the people's representatives in a duly elected parliament.

He said that the move was against the demand for a parliamentary form of government, which had overwhelming popular support.

The ninth amendment bill, which needs two-thirds support of the 300-member parliament for passage, would limit the election of a president to two five-year terms and allow for presidential polls after the expiry of each term. The bill also proposes simultaneous election of a president and vice-president. Under the current system, the president appoints the vice-president.

Opposition parties, including the BNP and the Awami League, boycotted the March 1988 parliamentary elections, saying the event was a "farce" and that no "fair polls" were possible under the regime of General Ershad.

Gen Ershad has shunned opposition claims and called for a negotiated settlement to "strengthen democracy" in the country. His ruling Jatiya Party (JT) has a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

Gen Ershad was elected in October 1986 to a term expiring in 1991. The bill would permit him to run for another five-year term, which critics said would give him nearly 15 years in power.

But supporters said the president showed "magnanimity" by limiting his possible rule through 1996, as the Constitution, which calls for direct election by universal suffrage, contains no limit on presidential tenure.

After Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed offered the bill, the official BSS news agency quoted Gen Ershad as saying that the amendment would make "considerable contributions in establishing democracy on a firm foundation." He said neither he nor his seven-year-old government wished to perpetuate in power and that he wanted to see the democratic process and the Constitution work smoothly in Bangladesh, according to BSS.

Several smaller opposition parties criticised the bill, saying that people would not accept the amendment as it was irrelevant to democratic rule. "It will only help the government to use it as an instrument to achieve its political blueprint," a group of leftist parties was quoted Saturday as saying, without elaboration.

But Shah Moazzem Hussain, a deputy prime minister and secretary general of the JT, defended the bill as "yet another bold step" by Gen Ershad and urged the opposition not to indulge in "useless criticism" against it.

The pr
bill wa[ro-government BANGLADESH TIMES said the
pline" [s a "step aimed at preventing chaos and indisci-
during transitional periods of governments.

The an
offices[nendment "will democratize the highest political
adding in the country," the TIMES said in an editorial,
ment, [that it would be "a shield against any govern-
withou[party or individual trying to remain in power
[t holding periodic elections in (the) future."

The m[
bill, bu[ass-circulation DAINIK INQILAB supported the
powers[it said "there was scope for discussions on the
preside, tenure and jurisdiction" of an elected vice-
[nt.

The bil
Mr Ers[ll's introduction came amid speculation here that
tem, w[had was planning to introduce a U.S.-style sys-
in a pr[here the vice-president would be a running mate
[esidential election.

If passe
1, 199[ed, the bill would take effect no later than March
[, BSS said.

India

Gandh[i Carried Pakistani Proposals to Gorbachev

BK170[7151489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] [
ter Raj[New Delhi, July 17 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minis-
the wa[iv Gandhi carried secret Pakistani proposals on
Gorbac[r in Afghanistan to Soviet President Mikhail
OF IN[hev in Moscow last weekend, the PRESS TRUST
bachev DIA (PTI) said Monday [17 July]. But Mr. Gor-
needed found the proposals "incomplete" and said they
to be reconsidered, the agency said.

PTI qu
homew[oted Mr. Gandhi as telling reporters aboard his
Genera[ard-bound aircraft Monday that U.N. Secretary-
bicente[l Javier Perez de Cuellar had met him at the
Paris la[nnial celebration of the French Revolution in
Mr. Go[st week and asked him to relay the proposals to
[rbachev.

The Ind
Paris-M[ian premier, who returned here Monday from his
content[oscow-Islamabad trip, declined to reveal the
[of the proposals, PTI said.

Mr. Ga[
stan wi[ndhi said that he held lengthy talks on Afghani-
Benazir[th Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister
Pakista[Bhutto, in Islamabad on Sunday. He said that
peace, [n was still of the opinion that, to pave the way for
PTI rep[Afghanistan's President Najibullah should go,
[orted.

Comments on Regional Issues

BK1707163389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that Colombo is moving in a dangerous direction by not fulfilling the contractual obligations under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement, and expressed the hope that Sri Lanka would realize the gravity of the situation. Mr Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at the Delhi Airport today on his return from his three-nation tour of France, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Answering another question, the prime minister said Nepal is wholly responsible for the collapse of the treaties on trade and transit. He said India had always been willing to work out a solution to the problem. He said Nepal is now getting more than it is supposed to get under the most favored nation treatment. He expressed the hope that better sense will prevail on the part of Nepal in finding a solution.

On his talks with the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, Mr Gandhi said: We are looking for a solution to the Siachen issue. Some progress has been made during the discussions. Another round of talks is likely to be held within a month.

The prime minister also addressed a joint press conference along with the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad shortly before his departure for New Delhi.

Answering questions on Nepal and Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said during his talks with more than 30 world leaders in Paris, there was no query about these countries. Several questions were put on Pakistan's nuclear program.

Mr Gandhi said that the nuclear program is one of the bigger issues between the two countries. He pointed out that, unlike in India, the nuclear program in Pakistan is controlled by the Pakistan Army and is not open to parliament.

Ms Bhutto said that ways must be found to make the South Asian region free of nuclear weapons.

Mr Gandhi refuted the charge that India has embarked on a military buildup and said his government is spending only four percent of its GNP [Gross National Product] on its defense, as against Pakistan's eight percent.

In an informal chat with newsmen accompanying the prime minister aboard his special plane, Mr Gandhi said that the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, had requested him to take certain proposals on Afghanistan to the Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev. Mr Gandhi said that he told Mr Perez de Cuellar that he will speak to the Pakistan prime minister. [sentence as heard] Asked

about his reaction to the proposals, Mr Gandhi said the proposals are not comprehensive and are inadequate. Mr Gorbachev's reaction is also similar.

Mr Gandhi said that the Afghanistan issue was discussed in his talks with Ms Benazir Bhutto. Mr Gandhi added: To put it bluntly, Pakistan wants Dr Najib to go. But there is no answer to the question: What next?

Criticizes Sri Lanka Over Troops

BK1707131289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that Colombo is moving in a dangerous direction by not fulfilling the contractual obligations under the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement and expressed the hope that Sri lanka would realize the gravity of the situation. Mr Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at the New Delhi airport today on his return from his 3-nation tour of France, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan.

Asked to comment on the Sri Lankan foreign minister's reported remarks of forcible ejection of the PKF [peacekeeping force], Mr Gandhi hoped that better sense would prevail. The prime minister pointed out that the PKF had gone to the neighboring island nation to contain the situation there. It was the PKF which had prevented Sri Lanka from disintegration which would have taken place perhaps 2 years ago. Mr Gandhi pointed out that law and order in Sri Lanka exists only where the PKF is present.

Referring to the killing of two senior TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders in Colombo, Mr Gandhi said this shows that LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has not given up violence. He asserted that the PKF had ensured the holding of three elections in Sri Lanka in recent months, which otherwise would not have been possible. He recalled that India wanted to withdraw the PKF in December last year, but the Sri Lankan Government did not favor the idea.

Mr Gandhi said that Mr Premadasa had earlier stated that under no circumstances the PKF should be withdrawn as the situation might go out of control. He said that the devolution of powers to the Tamils in the northeastern region has not taken place. There seems to be a tendency on the part of Colombo to backtrack from its contractual obligations under the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

He regretted that there has been no positive response from the Sri Lanka president to discuss the timeframe for the withdrawal of the PKF as suggested by him in his communication to Mr Premadasa.

Opposition Says Sri Lanka Nation's 'Vietnam'

BK1407145289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 14 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 14 (AFP)—An Indian opposition leader charged Friday that India had plunged itself into a "Vietnam-like situation" by dispatching troops to Sri Lanka two years ago.

George Fernandez, secretary general of the opposition Janata Dal (People's Party), told journalists here that he blamed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for insisting that the agreement under which troops were sent to the island nation be signed before local elections were held and domestic opinion tapped.

Mr. Gandhi signed the accord in July 1987 with then President Junius Jayewardene in an effort to put an end to a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Since the signing almost 1,000 Indian soldiers of the 45,000-strong Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) have been killed in bitter fighting with the country's main Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The Tigers, the only group to repudiate the pact, have suffered more than 2,000 casualties.

Mr. Fernandez said Friday that Mr. Premadasa had advised Mr. Jayewardene at the time of the signing that local elections should be held first, and that Mr. Jayewardene had agreed with him. It was Mr. Gandhi who "insisted" that it be signed, he charged.

In April Mr. Premadasa, who has faced increasingly violent opposition from Sinhalese rebels opposed to the Indian troop presence, opened peace talks with the LTTE, excluding the Indians from the process. On June 1 he called for all Indian troops to be out of the island nation by the end of July.

Mr. Gandhi rejected the demand, saying devolution of political power to Tamils in the north should take place first, and that any withdrawal timetable must be negotiated.

Mr. Fernandez questioned India's motivation for keeping the IPKF in Sri Lanka, adding that the troop presence on foreign soil put India in a "Vietnam-like situation."

'Joint Press Release' on Gandhi's Pakistan Visit

BK1807033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have decided to accelerate the process of settling the Siachen Glacier issue by holding another meeting of army commanders next month. They have also agreed to convene the meeting of the surveyors general to settle the long-outstanding demarcation of the Sir Creek area and maritime boundary. This was stated

in a joint press release issued in Islamabad yesterday at the end of the 2-day talks between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his Pakistani counterpart, Ms Benazir Bhutto.

The two prime ministers also directed that the settlement should be based on the redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict and avoidance of the use of force.

Reviewing developments in bilateral relations since the signing of three agreements in December last, the two leaders agreed that India-Pakistan consultations at appropriate levels should continue on a regular basis for cooperation in various spheres. It was agreed that necessary requirements should be completed for the agreement on nonattack on each other's nuclear installations.

Cooperation Projects With Pakistan To Expand

BK1807094789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have decided to take proper measures to expand cooperation in important sectors, including industry, agriculture, communications, and health and sciences.

The subcommission on economic matters of the Indo-Pakistan joint ministerial commission decided in Islamabad today that in the industrial field the two sides will exchange delegations of businessmen and promote contacts between them. The two sides also agreed to identify the relevant agencies for the exchange of procedures for promoting cooperation in small and medium industrial sector.

In the agricultural sector, they agreed to hold a joint workshop in India on coordinated research and genetic improvement of indigenous breeds of livestock.

Inaugurating the third meeting of the Indo-Pakistan joint commission, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, urged Pakistan to end its discriminatory treatment of India in the field of trade, saying that now is the time for boldness and not of hesitation. Mr Rao expressed surprise that Pakistan had singled out India as the only country to which it would not provide the global system of trade preferences facilities. He pointed out that India continued to give Pakistan the most favored nations status and expressed the hope that Islamabad will reciprocate before long.

The 2-day meeting of the commission will discuss cooperation in cultural, commercial, and other fields and measures to ease travel restrictions.

2d Round of Siachen Talks Planned for Aug

BK1707165289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] A report received a short while ago said the second meeting of the military officials of India and Pakistan will take place in August to determine the future troop position in the Siachen area. This has been stated in a joint press release issued at the end of the 2-day visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to Islamabad.

The release said the defense secretaries of the two countries have been directed to work toward a comprehensive settlement in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

Defense Minister on Military Satellites

BK1707141089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 17 (AFP)—India will keep its options open on the development and production of military satellites, Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant said here Monday.

Mr Pant told a defence magazine that India would develop the satellites at an appropriate time both for surveillance and as an airborne early warning system. The statement was India's first disclosure that it has military ambitions in space.

"The needful will be done in this regard at the appropriate time," the CHANAYKA AEROSPACE, DEFENCE AND MARITIME REVIEW magazine quoted Mr Pant as saying. But Mr Pant was not quoted as predicting a specific date for possible startup of the project.

The successful May 22 launch of a domestically built medium-range ballistic missile, called Agni (Fire), was a "shot in the arm" for Indian scientists as they had gained confidence in tasks involving complex and sophisticated technologies, Mr Pant said in the interview.

The government had recognised its weakness in not being able to "translate a scientific breakthrough into actual production," the minister said, adding that it has introduced measures to overcome the problem.

Military scientists launched an ambitious guided missile development programme in 1983 and capped it by assembling a surface-to-surface missile called Prithvi, or Earth, in March 1987, followed by the Agni and a series of surface-to-air and anti-tank missile systems.

Explosion Rocks Srinagar; Clashes Noted

BK1807051089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a powerful explosion rocked Karan Nagar area of Srinagar city last night. The blast, which occurred at around 2000, damaged a truck and the wall of a house.

Agency reports say that 30 people, including 12 policemen, were injured in clashes between stone-pelting mobs and police in the Badshah Chowk, Narsimha Bazar, and Garhkadal areas of the city and at Sambal near Srinagar yesterday.

At Sambal, the police fired in the air to disperse the mob when repeated use of tear gas and lathi [baton] charges failed to scatter them.

Iran

U.S. Announces Reparations for 'Vincennes' Victims

NC1807053689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] In an overt act of retreat and after one year of silence, the U.S. Government announced that it is ready to pay compensation to families of each one of the 290 victims in the U.S. warship's attack on an Iranian passenger airliner in the Persian Gulf last year. According to a United Press report from Washington, the U.S. State Department spokesman said that the payment of this compensation will be made to six countries—Iran, India, the UAE, Italy, Pakistan, and the SFRY, of which the victims were citizens. According to this report, the United States has announced that it is willing to pay $250,000 to families of those passengers who were full-time employees and $100,000 to families of other victims.

Support for Hashemi-Rafsanjani Candidacy Urged

NC1707124089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Jul 89 p 11

[Text] "Everyone recognizes me and I do not want my pictures and electioneering posters to be displayed. Such a display is not in the interests of the system and should be avoided."

This statement was made by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a seminar of Friday imams from all over the country held in Tehran last week. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has thus demonstrated that he is not about to embark on a publicity campaign for the presidential elections and that no one is authorized to launch such a campaign or set up any election "headquarters" in his name. Such publicity could result in concomitant violations which, according to him, "are not in the interests of the system and may harm it."

It must also be mentioned that the faithful are well aware of their obligations to the Islamic revolution. The people know that at the present sensitive juncture, the greater the voter turnout, the stronger the foundations of the system, which will prove more effective in frustrating our enemies. Therefore, those who seek to serve the cause of the revolution wil tighten their belts further at this stage and work to generate healthy popular publicity for Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani's candidacy for president.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has no headquarters and will not set up one; however, the house of each and every Hezbollah who loves the revolution and Islam should become in fact an election headquarters. There is no doubt that each person will use all his resources and lobby for him in these elections.

The offspring of the Hezbollah in various cities are at present engaged in such preparations and, according to reports received, immense enthusiasm and fervor for healthy publicity in favor of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani will fill the air of the cities and villages.

Speaker To Continue 'Imam's Path'

NC1707202489 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Jul 89 p 12

[Text] The Islamic revolution, as the only divine revolution with the greatest popular support, emerged victorious thanks to strong-willed and God-seeking men who rallied around their great leader Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified—men who did not fear danger but displayed unprecedented devotion. The imam's leadership was the determining factor in the victory and continuation of the revolution, and the imam who were beside him from the very beginning of this divine movement until the last day of his life clearly proved that everything they had belongs to the divine revolution and that they are the ones who will continue the Imam's path.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani is among the figures who stood out among the imam's devoted friends and who emerged with his head held high from great tests. From the very first day of the imam's movement, he was beside him in the suffering imprisonment, torture, and many difficulties, the shah's despotic regime. The fact that in the first struggle against spring of freedom, the bullets of the sworn enemies of the Islamic Republic were aimed at the chest of Hashemi-Rafsanjani is proof that the enemies of the revolution were aware of his role in the great divine movement. However, as stated by the imam, as long as the movement lives, Hashemi lives.

A man who remained faithful to his imam and nation at the culmination of the suppression of the shah's despotism, a man who suffered the worst tortures for the sake

of the grandeur and sovereignty of Islam, a man who stood next to the martyr Beheshti during the most difficult times in the struggle of Islam against the united front of counterrevolution and the pro-West elements and whose speeches revealed the face of the infiltrators to the people, a man who in all the vicissitudes of the 10 years since the birth of the Islamic Revolution stood next to the great leader and preferred nothing to the grandeur of the holy system of the Islamic Republic—this man has now announced his readiness to assume the role of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The appreciative people of Islamic Iran are well aware that it is these devoted friends of the imam who will continue on his path. This is why the announcement by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to assume the presidency is a source of great pleasure to all those who are enamoured with the imam's path. It is foreseen that all the people throughout the country will welcome, in a worthy way, the upcoming presidential elections and thus make the imam's soul happy and disappoint the enemies of Islam.

Turkish Official Arrives for Oil Talks

LD1807081289 Tehran IRNA in English
1650 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Oil Affairs Ilhan Askin arrived here this afternoon at the head of a delegation and was welcomed by Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh at the airport.

"Purchase of Iranian crude will be among the major topics to be raised in talks with Iranian officials," Askin told IRNA upon arrival.

Iranian oil continued to flow to Turkey this year despite a brief interruption, and Askin said he would iron out the issue with Aqazadeh.

He expressed hope that his visit will help materialize the accords reached during the 7th joint economic commission meet in Ankara last February.

While in Iran Askin will also inspect several oil fields and installations including reconstruction efforts at Abadan refinery, once among the world's largest.

According to a protocol inked in Ankara last September Iran would export six million tons of crude oil to Turkey in 1989, and import 1,000 tons of kerosene and 1,000 tons of gasoline daily, in return.

The 7th economic commission meet predicted the volume of mutual trade exchanges at dlrs. 1.4 billion for the current Christian year.

Japanese Envoy Attends Khomeyni Ceremony

Musavi Meets With Fujio

LD1507184989 Tehran IRNA in English
1810 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Senior Japanese member of Parliament Masayuki Fujio in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Saturday condoled the passing away of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Masayuki, who represented the Japanese prime minister at a ceremony held here Thursday to mark the end of a 40 day public mourning for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, called for expansion of mutual ties in various fields.

Premier Musavi lauded the Japanese Government and people for expressing sympathy with the Iranian nation over the loss of their beloved leader.

He said the two countries could have further cooperation in the future in political, economic, cultural and technical fields on the basis of mutual interests.

Rafsanjani Receives Message

LD1607180589 Tehran IRNA in English
1745 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam [Hoj] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received a message from Japanese Prime Minister Sosuke Uno on expansion of Tehran-Tokyo ties.

The message was handed over by the special Japanese Envoy Masayuki Fujio, who represented Premier Sosuke Uno at the 40th day ceremony for the late Imam Khomeyni.

Japan is keen for active participation in Iran's reconstruction efforts, since the country itself went through a war followed by post-war reconstruction, Masayuki told the speaker.

There is no obstacle whatsoever in the expansion of mutual ties, replied Hoj Hashemi-Rafsanjani, adding "during my visit to Tokyo I told your officials that we have chosen your friendship, and will continue to do so."

A verbal message from Japan's new Emperor Akihito on expansion of Tehran-Tokyo ties was also conveyed to Hoj Hashemi-Rafsanjani by Ambassador Kunihiko Saito, who was present in the meeting.

Majlis Appoints Guardians Council Legal Experts
LD1607123489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Summary] In today's Majlis session a bill was ratified stipulating that people in the medical profession must work for the government 30 days a year.

"According to a Central News Unit report, during the session, in accordance with Articles 91 and 92 of the Constitution, Messrs Hasan Habibi, Ahmad 'Alizadeh, and Hasan Fakheri were appointed as legal expert members of the Guardians Council."

Musavi Addresses Cabinet on Khamene'i Message
LD1507122389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Excerpts] At today's Cabinet meeting the prime minister expressed his congratulations on the occasion of 'Id-e Qorban to the ministers and the Islamic ummah. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said: in order to continue the path of the Imam of the Ummah one should identify the reasons for people's love for the Imam and the Imam's path, and one should safeguard them as assets which should always be kept.

He added: the preparation of the blessed shrine of the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, the admirable administration of the ceremonies on the 40 day, and the millions-strong participation of the people in the heat of the day for mourning is a sign of the greatness of these assets.

Mr Musavi emphasized: the government of the Islamic Republic should always move in the same direction as was identified by the Imam. It is natural that, under those circumstances, the government will continue to enjoy the support of the illustrious leader and the dear nation.

Mr Musavi added: The servants of the people and Islam throughout the country, their hearts filled with the grief of the demise of the Imam of the Ummah, as the leader of the revolution said in his message yesterday, will engage in action and endeavors and will increase their efforts for the construction of the country and will move faster toward the creation of well-being combined with the expansion of social justice and moral values. Of course, this is the duty of all of us. All of us should maintain the Imam's path which is the path of no compromise with the domination of the mighty and the rich. If we pay attention to the important message of the illustrious leader, that message fully clarifies that framework for all the strata of the people and all the officials. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker Addresses Conference on Khomeyni
LD1507124489 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—A 2-day international congress to study various aspects of Imam Khomeyni's personality opened here Saturday. Among the participants were Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the late imam's family, members of the Women's Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, foreign guests and reporters.

In her inauguration speech, Mrs Marziyeh Hadidehchi Dabbagh, secretary-general of the Women's Society elaborated on the mystical, philosophical and jurisprudential aspects of the late imam's personality and great importance he attached to women's role in the revolution.

Also addressing the congress was the Majlis speaker who said thanks to the efforts of Imam Khomeyni Islam displayed its power and resolve at the era of 'space and atom.'

"...You can find no one after the prophets to be the source of so much blessings and changes in the world."

He added that the imam exterminated the feeling of lack of prestige in Muslims and gave them honour and power.

Over 1,000 domestic and foreign scientific, political and cultural personalities are attending the congress.

The Majlis speaker stressed that never in history the world propaganda machines were so active as they were against the imam. But despite all the arrogant propaganda, imam's influence reached the most remote parts of the world, he added.

"...The imam carried out his mission and after him, a competent person will carry the torch," he said.

Rafsanjani was referring to the election of Aaytollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader of the Islamic Revolution on June 4, one day afer the imam's passing away.

The imam betrayed all conspiracies during the past years and this proved to the world that human beings did not need to rely on the West or the East in their revolutions, he said, further hailing the late leader of the revolution for initiating the 'Neither East nor West' policy.

Besharati Meets Lebanese Interior Minister
NC1607062589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Lebanese Interior Minister Mr 'Abdallah al-Rasi held a 2-hour meeting with our deputy foreign minister, Mr Besharati.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr al-Rasi, who is in Tehran as the head of a delegation to the memorial ceremony to mark the passage of 40 days since the death of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, extended the Lebanese Government's condolences and explained the latest developments in Lebanon during this meeting.

The Lebanese interior minister said: Michel 'Awn's illegal government, which is supported by Saddam, continues its shelling of Beirut's Muslim-inhabited areas, which unfortunately, is being met by silence from most countries.

Thanking the Lebanese delegation for its presence in Tehran and for the Lebanese Government's condolences, the deputy foreign minister stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran supports Salim al-Huss' legal government. He went on to announce the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to assist Lebanon's Muslims in reconstructing the damages caused by the civil war.

Lebanese Figures Continue Meetings With Leaders

Shams al-Din Meets Majlis Speaker

LD1507201289 Tehran IRNA in English
2000 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for "the tyrannised nation of Lebanon against the enemies."

Speaking in a meeting with the vice-speaker of the Lebanese Supreme Shi'ite Assembly, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed on the "principle of unity in the ranks of the Lebanese Muslims" which he said "will guarantee their success against the plots of the West and the East."

The acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief also stressed the resistance of the Lebanese people in the face of the aggressive Zionist forces and their internal agents.

Shaykh Shams al-Din expressed condolences on the passing away of Imam Khomeyni and congratulated the suitable election of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader of the world Muslims.

He also wished success for the Islamic Republic and disappointment for the enemies "under the present sensitive situation."

Birri, Jibril Meet Khamene'i

LD1607123189 Tehran IRNA in English
1150 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Representatives of Palestinian and Lebanese groups called on the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday to reaffirm their allegiance.

Present at the meeting were leaders of Palestine's Islamic Jihad vice chairman of Lebanon's Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and leaders of the Hizballah and Amal Movements, the National Front for Liberation of Palestine, community of Muslim 'ulema, Society of Jebel Amal 'Ulema and several Lebanese university professors and students.

Head of the Amal Movement Nabih Birri briefed Ayatollah Khamene'i on the recent developments in Lebanon and announced his readiness to obey the orders of the leader of world Muslims.

Colonel Abu Musa, head of the Revolutionary Palestinian Fatah Movement, felt confident that the Islamic Revolution in Palestine would crush plots of all reactionary regimes in the region.

"We consider ourselves as your loyal soldiers," he told the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Ahmad Jibril, chairman of the PFLP'S Command Council said that the Palestinian nation has pinned great hopes in Ayatollah Khamene'i to liberate Palestine.

The visitors were among a large number of foreign dignitaries who last Thursday attended the traditional 40th day mourning ceremony for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Ayatollah Khamene'i, urging all struggling groups to join hands against the Zionist regime, called for formation of a just system of government in Lebanon.

In a separate meeting Saturday, the leader of the Islamic Revolution received a group of several other ulema and Muslim personalities from different countries who pledged him their allegiance.

The visitors included leaders of the Iran-based eight party mujahidin coalition, and ulema and personalities from Pakistan, South Yemen, China, Kenya, France, West Germany, the USA, Nigeria, India and Singapore, as well as a group of Turkish Muslims residing in Europe and also several Iraqi Muslims based in Syria. Speaking at the event, 'Abd al-Halim Hubert, head of the Paris-based center for Islamic and social research, termed the 10 million-plus gathering at Imam Khomeyni's funeral as indication of their "in-depth faith in the Islamic Revolution."

Fadlallah Says Saudis 'Must Pay' for Blasts

LD1707075389 Tehran IRNA in English
0620 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., July 17, IRNA—The prominent Lebanese alim, Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, said recent bomb explosions in Mecca were a U.S. plot executed by the Saudi regime.

Fadlallah who is currently here to pay a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) [God's peace be upon him], said the Saudis "must pay dearly" for the crime.

Two bombs exploded in Mecca last Monday which claimed the life of one and injured several other pilgrims.

He described a joint statement of 14 Lebanese and Palestinian groups issued in Tehran Saturday as useful.

"This act of unity will displease the sworn enemies of the Lebanese people and they will react to it," he said.

He said all the groups must watch out for plots of U.S. and other espionage networks aimed at sowing discord.

"The Lebanese tragedy is not domestic, it is intermingled with political games of powers such as the U.S. and its Arab lackies," he told IRNA.

Paper Lauds Amal-Hizballah Agreement

NC1707190089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Jul 89 p 11

[Commentary entitled "The Unity of Forces Is the Major Condition for the Success of the Muslims of Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] The quadrilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of Syria and of the leaders of the revolutionary Hizballah movement and the Amal Movement which was held in Damascus ended with a joint communique issued by the Hizallah and Amal. [Passage omitted]

Even though Lebanon and its Muslims have sacrificed many martyrs, nevertheless they have not been able to preserve their Islamic identity and to see the need to administer their rights and to upset the balance of power which has been of benefit to the Maronites.

Such a development will definitely not be of benefit to the dependent forces, and if the Lebanese nation finds the opportunity to determine its internal structure, then certainly there will be no place for the antipopular and rightist forces in Lebanon.

Closeness between Hizballah and Amal will always be dangerous to the Maronite mercenaries and Zionist elements, and this is exactly why these forces are trying their best to act against the revolutionary Muslim forces.

The Lebanese Muslims, who have now regained their genuine identity, should—apart from rallying closer around each other—heed foreign instigations and prove to everyone the very significant point that Lebanon's destiny should not be determined in either Paris or Washington.

The upcoming summit of the seven industrialized countries in Paris will definitely discuss the Lebanese issue too, and dissension among the ranks of the Muslims will further encourage the West's wish to interfere in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the role of reactionary Arab countries in this should not be forgotten either. Many of these countries are direct tributaries of the West and they are, by donning the mask of friendship, pursuing the illegal interests of world arrogance in Lebanon. The bringing to power of Michel 'Awn and his overdependence on the power which is supported by enemies of the Lebanese nation turns back to these very enemies who have donned a mask of friendship.

Naturally a league that bases its activities on unconditionally following the West lacks the necssary legality to interfere in Lebanon's affairs. In view of all this, revolutionary movements should do their best to preserve their unity.

Their common front can have the necessary strength to crush all the mercenaries. The spark they ignited, setting on fire the haystack of the occupiers of Jerusalem, should make them more determined in the path ahead of them. The future of a Muslim and free Lebanon depends on this unity.

TEHRAN TIMES on Confronting Iraq in Lebanon

LD1707193689 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—An Iranian daily said Monday that measures should be taken to confront Iraqi plots for disturbing the balance of power in Lebanon.

THE TEHRAN TIMES editorial noted the delivery of FROG-7 ground to ground missiles by Iraq to Christian forces leader Michel 'Awn and said this was an indication of Iraq's "dangerous" motives.

Using political levers on Iraq by a third country like the Soviet Union, with great influence on Iraq and friendly relations with Iran and Syria, could play a vital role, said THE TEHRAN TIMES.

The daily added that Syria should quickly respond to a request by Islamic and nationalist forces in Lebanon on delivery of modern and up-to-date weapons to counter the Iraqi arms supplies.

"Damascus should waste no time and be quick to respond to the requests made by the Islamic forces like Amal and Druze fighters who need advanced missiles to counter FROG-7'S," THE TEHRAN TIMES wrote.

It said the establishment of better communication between Tehran and Damascus for exchange of information and intelligence to check Iraqi conspiracies was "essential".

Above all the daily said it was the unity of Lebanese factions which enabled them to resist 'Awn and his allies.

The daily lauded the meeting by representatives of 14 Lebanese and Palestinian groups under the sponsorship of the Foreign Ministry in Tehran over the weekend and urged the militia leaders to stick to a pledge made in a joint statement calling for unity of action.

KEYHAN Assails Austria Over Attack on Qasemlu
LD1707152889 Tehran IRNA in English
1515 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN in a commentary Monday criticized the Austrian Government for not having done enough to identify the assassins of Kurdish rebel leader Abdolrahman Qasemlu, who was gunned down in Vienna Thursday.

Two other Kurds were killed and Mahmud Ja'fari Sahrarudi an Iranian diplomat who was meeting Qasemlu was injured by the assassins.

The daily said "the very Western supporters of the human rights who themselves are the principal promoters of government-sponsored terrorism throughout the world and who have connived at many criminal acts perpetrated by government-sponsored terrorists in many countries, have also called on governments which sponsor terrorism to disavow their support for such methods."

It said "the supporters of the human rights condemned only the bomb planting at the Pan Am airliner which took the lives of 270 passengers over the airspace of Scotland, but said nothing about the downing of the Iranian Air-bus with 290 passengers which was hit by a rocket launched from the U.S. warship 'Vincennes', or about tens of similar incidents here and there."

KEYHAN said all evidence in Vienna attests to the fact that Iraqi diplomats and Iraqi intelligence sources were involved in the assassination of the Iraqi Kurds and in shooting the Iranian official.

There are also indications that as the new round of talks between the Iranian diplomats and the leaders of the outlawed Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq went on for working a non-hostility agreement the leader of the Monafeqin [hypocrites] (MKO) Mas'ud Rajavi, threatened the leader of the Kurdish party against any reconciliation with Iran.

"The past assassination records of the Iraqi Government," continued KEYHAN, "leaves no room for questioning Iraq's role in the assassination of Qasemlu...If the Austrian police should launch a query unimpeded by internal and external pressures they will certainly very soon get hold of the documents which betray the elements behind that crime and will publish those documents for the knowledge of the world people."

KEYHAN HAVAI Interviews Foreign Minister
PM1707151489 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian
12 Jul 89 pp 14, 15

[Unattributed interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on 1 July 1989 at the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] [KEYHAN HAVAI] The comments made by Mr Gerasimov were said to be the personal views of a Soviet diplomat. What is the USSR's exact position on the 1975 Algiers Accord?

[Velayati] Mr Gerasimov is not an "unofficial" person. He is the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry and he made those remarks in a press conference, so the comments cannot be taken as personal views. His job does not call for him to make personal comments in front of journalists, especially in a location where it is normal for Mr Gerasimov to make official statements, later said to be his own personal views. Those familiar with politics know that a stable and experienced foreign policy, such as that of the Soviet Union, will not manifest itself in a rash and uncalculated way.

During Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent trip to Moscow we did not see anything that would contradict Mr Gerasimov's position. What we understood was what he had said before. In any case the 1975 accord does not depend on approval from a government or a people, or on their silence. It is a highly respected legal agreement signed by Iran and Iraq, approved by both their parliaments, and it has the necessary legal and political credibility to be carried out. More important than that, it has started to be implemented, and has been registered by the United Nations. In accordance with international law it cannot be endorsed by a single country.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] The policy of creating a balance in Soviet foreign policy started when Imam Khomeyni wrote a letter to Mr Gorbachev. Now the question that remains is this: What was the reason or the cause for the imam's intervening directly in foreign policy?

[Velayati] The imam—may his soul rest in peace—was always aware of foreign policy. In one of his speeches he said that he was aware of all internal and external policies in detail. He used to advise us whenever he saw the need, without its becoming public knowledge. Sometimes he saw fit to intervene directly in some issue. We have several examples of his reactions throughout the years that I have been involved in the Foreign Ministry and the Islamic revolution.

With regard to the hajj, for several years, during speeches and decrees, he acted in various ways that constituted direct intervention in this very important and vital matter. With regard to resolution 598, a few days before the acceptance of the resolution, he said the body responsible for this is the Foreign Ministry. In connection with the mediators who came to Iran at the beginning of the war, he saw it proper to grant some of them an audience,

though of course many of them were never granted an audience with the imam. It all depended on the sensitivity of an issue, whether or not something had to be confirmed or denied, and depending on how vital a certain issue was, he would intervene directly or indirectly, or else give advice.

There were many situations where we felt that we had to seek the imam's view, and he would tell us what to do. Many of these things were never said publicly. But the strategic importance of establishing close ties and goodneighborly relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, on the basis of mutual respect, was so great, that the imam intervened personally. Especially at the beginning of this sensitive task, the imam himself was personally in charge of the issue.

Of course the letter that he wrote to Mr Gorbachev could not have been written by anyone else, because he was in charge of the Muslims' affairs. In one part of the letter the imam extended an invitation to follow Islam, for the Soviets to at least send some people over to study Islam, to seek Islam's solutions to certain problems. Alongside this invitation, he mentioned the Islamic Republic's wish to establish goodneighborly relations.

So, you see, if we look at the contents of the letter, it could not have been written by anyone in a lesser position. This was something both ideological and political, and a mission which he himself had to perform, and it gave the expected positive results.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Before the imam wrote that letter, did any of the officials themselves reach the conclusion of the necessity of expanding relations with the Soviet Union?

[Velayati] Yes. As was mentioned by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Friday prayers, we in the Foreign Ministry had strategic plans that were moving along the same path. So this was not something that was independent of the imam's advice. As I said, at important and decisive points in our foreign policy we usually sought the imam's guidance. In general, our foreign policy was discussed by the three powers—judicial, legislative and executive—and finally its basic and most important points were sought from the imam. This is how we have conducted our foreign policy during the past few years. It is the same now. The policy is drawn out and planned in the Foreign Ministry, submitted to the three powers, and then the leadership has direct supervision. It is necessary for foreign policy all over the world to be conducted in this manner.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Have the country's officials and those at the Foreign Ministry really reached the conclusion that the Soviet Union is no longer following its policy of domination, that this policy will not be seen in the future?

[Velayati] It is countries' actions that are the indicators. We act within the framework of our principles. No one can predict how a country will behave in the future. But based on realities, you have indications and forecasts and an analysis is made of these forecasts. In any case, we will not act—with respect to the Soviet Union or any other country—in such a way that our hands will be tied when it comes to future political moves.

With regard to the Soviet Union, we have now reached the conclusion that there have been many changes in that country. The withdrawal from Afghanistan, disarmament, efforts to lessen Soviet agitation in other parts of the world, greater attention to the people's wishes, and so forth are all elements that we see clearly in the Soviet Union. The situation there is very different from what it was before, 3 or 4 years ago.

The situation in the Soviet Union is different from what it was during the Brezhnev era. It is very different from what it was during Stalin's time. As far as we are concerned, as long as our relations with the Soviet Union and other countries remain within the basic framework, it is acceptable for us and is part and parcel of our foreign policy. We are loyal to our agreements with and pledges to other nations, including the Soviet Union. On the other hand, we see a tendency on the Soviet side to improve ties, and we do not see any of the old domineering attitude. This move forward received a positive response from the Islamic Republic, so relations between the Soviet Union and Iran are based on mutual consent and equal and mutual rights, with no interference in each other's affairs. All the elements that we just mentioned are in effect a practical rejection of domination in our foreign policy.

Now, if we establish ties with a country based on the above-mentioned principles, and later we find that the situation in that country has changed and that that country intends to dominate, then we will confront the issue. But for us to guarantee that the Soviet Union will behave in this way, and in no other way—we cannot guarantee the future behavior of any country. We guess. We predict. Based on these predictions, we establish our ties and relations. But our principles are clear. If we ever see that our ties with another country are straying from our main framework, then we can rethink the whole issue.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] What will be the effect of Moscow's political changes on the talks between Iran and Iraq, bearing in mind that you will have a meeting with the UN secretary general in the near future?

[Velayati] We do not depend on any country to achieve the goals of the Islamic Republic, either in the military field in the war that we waged for 8 years, or in the political arena. We depend now and always on the forces, capabilities, and potentials of our own people to defend the country's and the revolution's position. Of course if in the pursuit of the goals of our country and our

revolution we see that there are elements that can be utilized to achieve those goals, we will take advantage of the situation, without hesitation.

The Soviet Union is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and is our neighbor. It is also an important country in this area, so the stances it adopts are important. Now, if its stance is one of support for the implementation of Resolution 598, based on the 1975 Accord—the parts that deal with the implementation of the resolution—and if it wants to be positive in this regard, this will obviously be a good thing. Also, a resolution was passed by the Security Council and the effective elements of that council are its permanent members, one of which is the USSR. It is obvious that the Soviet Union's stances deserve consideration.

With regard to our meeting with the UN secretary general, we are going to Geneva to take part in a disarmament conference, not to take part in peace talks as such. Since the secretary general will be there at the same time, we will also have talks with him.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Concerning the agreements that were reached between Iran and the USSR, it is said by the mass media and in political circles that the arms agreements have to a large extent forced Iraq to moderate its stance. Has this change in position been conveyed officially to the Islamic Republic?

[Velayati] Like you, I only hear what the Iraqis have to say through the media. In any case, the important thing is that Iran and Iraq must implement resolution 598, because it has been approved by the Security Council and because both sides have accepted it. This means that both countries must keep their promise.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Recently there have been items in the local press which have quoted you as saying that the United States has made contacts through mediators to establish ties. How were these contacts made, and have there been any new proposals in this regard?

[Velayati] One newspaper interviewed me on whether or not the Americans have contacted us. I said that at various times, in various places, politicians conducting talks about their countries' relations with us, mentioned in passing that the Americans had expressed this tendency. So, this willingness of the Americans to establish ties reached us partly via other countries. Our position toward the United States is quite clear and has been mentioned several times by our officials.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Saudi Arabia's position in U.S. regional and general policy is quite clear, as is the Imam's view on that country. How will the Foreign Ministry organize its foreign policy in the Persian Gulf minus Saudi Arabia?

[Velayati] We have one principle in our foreign policy, and that is goodneighborly relations. This means having good ties with our neighboring countries. Of course the countries on the shores of the Persian Gulf are no exception. We have another rule, which says that we must have better relations with Islamic countries, which is mentioned in the Imam's will. Since the people of the Persian Gulf are all Muslims, they have this added reason for us to have good ties with them and to expand these ties. The third principle is that these countries are all in the Third World, and it is our principle to have ties with the Third World. The fourth element is the things we have in common with these countries with regard to history, culture, and customs, which themselves bring people together. So, you see, the nations of the Persian Gulf have many positive aspects which could have an important place in our foreign policy.

Those are the rules. These rules have had an exception, however, and that exception has for past 2 or 3 years been Saudi Arabia. Before the tragic events during the Hajj, we had the same relations with Saudi Arabia. I went there and their foreign minister came to Tehran. It was our aim to have relatively goodneighborly relations extended to Saudi Arabia. But with the huge crime of the massacre at the Hajj 2 years ago, a negative element entered the relations, overshadowing the other good points that we mentioned earlier. So our relations with Saudi Arabia reached their present stage, which is a break in relations. At the moment we have a break in our relations, and if Saudi Arabia wants to establish goodneighborly ties with the Islamic Republic, it must act in accordance with pure Islamic principles during the Hajj.

The Hajj is something politico-religious and cannot be separated from politics. In accordance with the Imam's wishes, we always tried in the past—both we and other Muslims from other countries who considered the Imam their supreme leader—to give the pilgrimage a politico-religious flavor, as Islam intended. This was built up over the past few years and reached its climax 2 years ago when several hundred pilgrims were martyred. The Saudis must rethink their procedures during the Hajj, and this is a very basic factor if there is to be an improvement of ties between our two countries.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] Concerning the internal differences in Turkey, which have also had an effect on its relations with Iran, will Iran play the role of mediator in the problems between Bulgaria and Turkey?

[Velayati] If the Islamic Republic can play a positive role in this regard it will do so. We have had some actions in this connection in the past, and if we are able to help in future, we will not hesitate. Not only there, but wherever Muslims have problems, the Islamic Republic considers it its duty to help in solving the issue at hand.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] In view of your past experiences, will you accept a post in the future government? Have you received any offers in this connection?

[Velayati] The future government is a matter for the next president. You must ask him that question. As an Iranian Muslim, I have so far been able to offer my services, albeit somewhat incomplete, and I am willing to remain in the service of the revolution and the holy regime of the Islamic Republic. I hope it will not make any difference for any of us where we work. The important thing is that we work for God, the people, the Islamic regime, and the beloved country of the Islamic Republic.

[KEYHAN HAVAI] As a last question, how have you managed to combine your specialization in pedriatrics with political affairs?

[Velayati] Despite in charge of the Foreign Ministry during the last 8 years, I have managed to keep in touch with medical circles. At the moment I teach at the Martyr Beheshti medical university and I take part in most medical seminars, both inside and outside the country. I also write scientific papers. During the recent trip to the Soviet Union, I was invited to a medical seminar.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Resolution 598

LD1707124189 Tehran IRNA in English
1231 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement Monday criticising the U.N. Security Council for its procrastinations in securing the execution of its Resolution 598 on establishing peace between Iran and Iraq.

The statement was released on eve of the first anniversary of Iran's acceptance of the U.N. resolution on July 18, 1988.

It said that the Security Council's failure to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the resolution "will not only be a violation of the resolution by its authors, but also a violation of the trust the United Nations have placed on the Security Council as the primary organ responsible for maintenance of international peace and security."

The statement warned that "the institutional implications of political expediency on the part of some members of the council who have confused bilateral relations with their official function as members of the Security Council are grave, and the precedent it creates is disastrous."

It voiced confidence that "the principled positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran will never change." These positions, it said, are based on the rejection of domination and subordination and Islamic principles in external relations, and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its sovereignty over its lands and waters in talks on the implementation of the resolution.

It also brought to attention "the legal and practical prominence and priority of withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries" manifested in the resolution and stressed that withdrawal "is prior to and independent of any negotiation."

Over 2,600 sq kms of Iranian territory is still under Iraqi occpation on lame pretexts such as the dredging of the Arvand river.

However, the statement added, from the very first meeting of direct talks, the foreign minister of Iraq called for the necessity of reaching a common understanding with regard to cease-fire itself, and used this pretext to introduce extraneous elements which by no extension of logic could be considered as a part of regulations for cease-fire.

It further referred to Iraqi insistance on placing the dredging of Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) among the regulations of cease-fire and voiced the conviction that "under the disguise of this illogical incorporation, Iraq seeks to undermine a valid international agreement signed and ratified by the present regime in Iraq and duly registered with the secretary general of the United Nations."

The statement underlined that "Iraq continues to espouse the same expansionist aspirations for the attainment of which it launched a war of aggression against a neighboring country."

"Iraq must understand that what it could not achieve in the course of the war cannot be achieved in peace talks," the Foriegn Ministry pointed out.

2d Part of Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interview Cited

LD1707132189 Tehran IRNA in English
1300 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, one of the close associates of the late imam and the most likely winner of the upcoming presidential elections in an interview with the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI outlined his programs for the presidential term.

In the second and last part of the interview, Rafsanjani touched on economy, relations with east and west, Saudi Arabia and neighouring countries.

On his refusal to establiish an election campaign headquarters, Rafsanjani said the people are well informed about the country's officials.

"I believe a campaign in its conventional form will be counterproductive, people do not expect me to put out posters and photos." However, there must be a certain degree of activity to keep the election momentum high, he said.

He rejected overdoing and over-spending which will be a burden on the society. Instead of using paper on posters the people should be motivated to participate in the elections, said the speaker.

In order to boost investment, public justice is needed. "Without public participation no serious work can be accomplished," he said.

Rafsanjani said that management of many factories can be delegated to the people and also sale of factories. Of course, he said in accordance with the government approvals workers and employees of these firms have the first purchase priority followed by other sectors an the moneyed people. This will attract the cash which is in the hands of the public.

The major task is to keep the capital owners away from dominating the country and its management, he stressed.

Rafsanjani hailed the changes made by the Constitution Review Council saying that it removed all the problems on the way of decision making process and put an end to lack of coordination.

On group approaches and factionalism he said this was more obvious in the Majlis. He said it has not been resolved a great deal and described it as essential for democracy. He said as the speaker he enjoyed good relations with both tendencies and said that both have good intentions with interests of the country and nation in mind.

He reiterated Iran's determination for good relations with its neighbors and with all others on a healthy basis. However, Iran has serious problems with countries such as the U.S., Israel and South Africa, he told the paper.

As for the first Iranian oil well in the Caspian Sea the work on which is to start shortly with the Soviet assistance and whether it would endanger Iran's oil industry, he said the plan is to become independent in future.

Rafsanjani said Iran is not much in need of Soviet technology but the Soviets can assist Iran to enable it to exploit the Caspian Sea resources just as the Soviets themselves do. He added that Iran does not have access to the sea and thus Soviet assistance can be useful.

On the Rushdie affair, he said from the beginning it was a political issue. The reaction to it showed the power of Islam. The West failed in its plot and Britain which had worked a great deal to improve ties with Iran, suffered the most, he added.

Indian born British national Salman Rushdie is the author of 'The Satanic Verses', a novel Muslims consider blasphemous. The late Imam Khomeyni issued death sentence against the sold-out writer who is now in hiding, for insulting the sanctities of over one billion Muslims.

More on Iran's ties with the West and conditions for their improvement, he said "If they deal with us on the basis of equal terms and do not wish to impose anything on the revolution we will deal with them on equal terms."

On Saudi refusal to take Iranian pilgrims for the second consecutive year, he said this is not a Saudi decision. It is very likely that the U.S. hands are behind and this has destroyed all the efforts made for betterment of Iran-Saudi relations. He described the Saudi move as an "unpardonable sin."

On recent explosions in Mecca he said it was carried out by the camp of enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On Iran's relations with third world countries he said he will continue to give it top priority, describing it as the most useful and least dangerous sort of ties.

Foreign Ministry Statement on UN Resolution

LD1707144189 Tehran IRNA in English
1433 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The following is the full text of a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today on the occasion of the first anniversary of Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 (July 18).

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

Exactly one year ago, on 18 July 1988, the Islamic Republic of Iran removed the only remaining excuse concocted by Iraq to prevent the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. The highest authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran officially and unconditionally accepted Resolution 598, and, in response to the invitation of the United Nations secretary-general, a high-level delegation was dispatched to New York to consult with secretary- general about the procedures for the full and rapid implementation of the resolution.

Unfortunately, what the Islamic Republic of Iran had always warned the international community about materialized, Iraq—which had declared, time and again, that the only obstacle for the implementation of the resolution was lack of official acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran—refused to implement the resolution by insisting on pre-conditions which were illogical, unacceptable and contradictory to the letter and spirit of Resolution 598 and the plans of the secretary-general.

While in July and August 1988, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran had nine substantive rounds of consultations with the secretary-general and accepted the timetable presented by the latter for the implementation of all provisions of Resolution 598, the foreign minister of Iraq insisted on having a courtesy visit to the secretary-general, refused to enter substantive talk with

him, did not even consider the time-table presented by the secretary-general, and insisted on having direct talks between Iran and Iraq before the establishment of cease-fire.

At the same time, and in spite of the repeated appeals and demands by the Security Council and the secretary-general, Iraq intensified its acts of aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, repeatedly resorting to chemical warfare. The failure of Iraq to attain its military objectives due to the heroic resistance of Muslim people of Iran was the most important factor that compelled Iraq to accept the cease-fire.

The behavior of Iraq following our acceptance of Resolution 598 revealed the true nature of Iraqi pro-peace propaganda. Had it not been for the heroic resistance of Muslim people of Iran, substantial pressure by the international community, and the refusal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to succumb to Iraqi precondition of direct-talks before cease-fire, even the first half of the first paragraph of Resolution 598 would not have been implemented to this day. What has occurred since the beginning of direct talks on 25 August 1988 and in the course of fifteen rounds of such talks is the best illustration of this contention.

While in July and August 1988, Iraq tried, and miserably failed, to employ military activities as a leverage for political bargaining, since 20 August 1988, it has attempted to exploit its illegal occupation of more than 2,000 square kilometers of Iranian territory as a tool to attain its illegitimate and expansionist aspirations. While this lawless policy of Iraq is doomed to the same destiny of its militaristic policy of July and August 1988, the fact remains that because of the intransigence of Iraq and its refusal to accept any of the proposals presented by the secretary-general of the United Nations, even the first mandatory paragraph of Resolution 598—demanding withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized boundaries—remains un-implemented.

The principle of respect for territorial integrity of others—for the realization of which withdrawal is indispensable and imperative—has been reiterated in Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter and many other ensuing UN and other international instruments so as to be recognized along with the right of states to preserve their territorial integrity as a general principle of international law. It should be noted that according to Paragraph (A) of Article 3 of the annex to General Assembly resolution on the definition of aggression "invasion or attack against the territory of states by the forces of another state or any military occupation even temporary resulting from such attack or invasion" is a prima facie indication of aggression.

[Text] The legal and practical prominence and priority of withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries is also manifested in Security Council Resolution 598. Acting under Article 39 and 40 of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council, in the first operative paragraph of Resolution 598 has demanded the cease-fire followed by withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay as a "first step towards a negotiated settlement." Therefore, withdrawal which is an inseparable part of this mandatory first step is prior to and independent of any negotiation.

However, since the beginning of direct talks on 25 August 1988, Iraq has used every conceivable method to evade its commitment under the resolution as well as under general principles of international law. The introduction of preconditions for the implementation of the resolution started with direct talks as a pre-condition for cease-fire and developed into continually evolving conditions for implementation of other provisions the most prominent and urgent of which is withdrawal. The refusal to cooperate with the secretary- general started with the episodes of July and August 1988 in New York where the foreign minister of Iraq refused to talk substance with the secretary-general and developed into rejection or non-acceptance of every proposal presented by the Secretary-General for the implementation of the resolution. A review of Iraqi procrastination tactics will illustrate the difficulties that have prevented full and rapid implementation of Resolution 598.

One of the stumbling blocks has been Iraq's refusal to accept any procedure presented by the secretary-general for the implementation of the resolution. In his letter of 5 January 1989 (s/20373), the foreign minister of Iraq claimed:

"We have confirmed to you Iraq's readiness to implement the resolution according to the sequence of its paragraphs or to agree to its implementation as a package deal without fragmentation. It has become evident to you in the course of the negotiation that Iran refuses to adopt a constant course in applying the resolution and wishes to deal with the resolution selectively..."

This line of argument which was more vigorously presented by Iraq in order to block the 4 point plan of 1 October 1988 of the secretary-general demands that Iran and the United Nations should accept one of the two methods prescribed by Iraq. The sequential approach had been insisted upon by Iraq since the adoption of the resolution, and because of its subjective character was not accepted by the Security Council or the secretary-general, despite Iraq's extensive diplomatic efforts. The implementation plan of 15 October 1987 of the secretary-general which was later endorsed by the Security Council is the best illustration of this fact. Furthermore, the fact that following the acceptance of the resolution by Iran, none of the proposals of the secretary-general followed a sequential approach is a further illustration that sequential approach is not considered by any pertinent authority as an appropriate procedure for the implementation of Resolution 598.

Following
October g the presentation of the 4-point plan of 1
plan, Ira 1988, with a view to raise objections to that
elements q insisted that any package must include all
position b of the resolution. The real nature of Iraqi
and Augu becomes more clear if one considers that in July
by the s ust 1988, indeed such a package was presented
timing a ecretary-general. The time-table incorporated
paragraph nd procedure for the implementation of all
cussed in hs of the resolution. This time-table was dis-
eign mini nine rounds of consultation between the for-
the accep ister of Iran and the secretary-general, leading to
Republic otance in principle of the plan by the Islamic
consider of Iran. Iraq, on the other hand, refused to even
position o the time-table, and has failed to make its
insistence on that plan known to date. So much for Iraqi
e on a comprehensive package.

It is evide
simply to ent that procedural objections by Iraq have been
lution. Si ols to prevent the implementation of the reso-
another h ince 18 July 1988, Iraq under one pretext or
hand, the has followed this basic strategy. On the other
secretary-g Islamic Republic of Iran has recognized the
from the S general as the person with a clear mandate
Therefore, Security Council to implement Resolution 598.
substance, it has cooperated with him on form and
presented , and has accepted almost everything that he
Resolution to the parties geared to the implementation of
official pre n 598. The following is a partial list of the
Islamic Re oposals of the secretary-general accepted by the
epublic of Iran and not so by Iraq:

- The time
resolution e table presented for the implementation of the
in July and August 1988,

- the under
vance of c erstandings relating to the provisions for obser-
cease-fire presented on 16 August 1988,

- the propo
and his per osals and suggestions of the secretary-general
rsonal representative in the first round of talks.

- The 4-poi
oint plan of 1 October 1988.

- the timin
ng of the plan of 1 October 1988.

Certainly,
the secreta the reaction of the parties to the proposals of
mine each tary-general can serve as a criterion to deter-
in applyin h party's readiness "to adopt a constant course
dures prop ng the resolution," and not self-serving proce-
break the posed by either party. It will be impossible to
teous appr deadlock, unless Iraq abandons its self-righ-
through th roach and begins implementing the resolution
he help and guidance of the secretary-general.

Another iss
tactic is Ira ssue which has been used by Iraq as a delaying
a common aq's interpretation of the necessity of reaching
letter of 8 n understanding on Resolution 598. In his
ters to dire August 1988, inviting the two foreign minis-
ect talks, the secretary-general stated:

"Both governments have agreed that direct talks between their foreign ministers shall be held under my auspices, immediately after the establishment of the cease-fire, in order to reach a common understanding of the other provisions of Security Council Resolution 598 and the procedure and timing for their implementation."

Using this letter, Iraq has tried to open negotiations on the resolution itself, attempting to re-draft and re-interpret that resolution based on its interests and objectives. It has attempted to hide behind the disguise of reaching common understanding of the provisions of the resolution in order to incorporate extraneous elements and (?trail) the resolution from its main course. This stems from a basic Iraqi argument—as illustrated in the letter of Iraqi foreign minister to the secretary-general dated 5 January 1989 (S/20373)—that "Resolution 598 (1987) is a peace plan which should be implemented by mutual agreement...", an approach that contradicts the mandatory nature of Resolution 598.

Since the secretary-general of the United Nations drafted the letter of 8 August 1988, his conception of what was to take place can be found in what he himself presented prior to and after the drafting of that letter. The time-table of July and August 1988 presented by the secretary-general and accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran—and not even considered by Iraq—can be one indication. His proposal in the course of the direct talks, most importantly the plan of 1 October 1988 which was officially presented by the secretary-general to the two parties—again accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and not so by Iraq—also illustrate his intentions. In fact the Islamic Republic of Iran was assured by the secretary-general both before and even on the day direct talks were inaugurated that direct talks, with the exception of negotiations called for under Paragraph 4 of the resolution, would be limited to comments on the dates and procedures suggested by the secretary-general for the implementation of the provisions of the resolution other than cease-fire. Any other interpretation of this letter would only be a vehicle for opening the pandora box of re-negotiating and re-drafting a carefully balanced resolution adopted unanimously by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

However, from the very first meeting of direct talks, the foreign minister of Iraq called for the necessity of reaching a common understanding with regard to cease-fire itself, and used this pretext to introduce extraneous elements which by no extension of logic could be considered as a part of regulations for cease-fire.

It is interesting to note that both the secretary-general in the letter quoted above, and Iraq in the statement of its president dated 6 August 1988 had excluded cease-fire from the agenda of direct talks. The statement of the president of Iraq is even more direct than that of the secretary-general in doing so:

"We...declare our readiness, on the condition that Iran declares, clearly, unequivocally and officially, its agreement to enter into direct negotiations with us, in appreciation of this initiative immediately after cease-fire, in order that we may discuss, reach agreement and implement all the provisions of Security Council Resolution 598 (1987) other than those relating to cease-fire, beginning with withdrawal to the international boundaries, proceeding through to Paragraph 8 and including all operative paragraphs. (s/20092). [reference not further identified]

It is clear that the president of Iraq not only excludes all issues related to cease-fire from direct talks, but also concedes that withdrawal is the first subject on the agenda of direct talks. Yet, to this date Iraq has refused to even comment on what itself considered the first agenda item, and has prevented the implementation of the resolution by introducing elements which it claimed related to the observance of cease-fire.

Let us, for the sake of argument, neglect the fact that cease- fire and issues relating to it were and continue to be outside the scope of the agenda of direct talks. How can one accept the logic that cleaning a common border river is an element of cease-fire without which the latter is incomplete? The secretary-general, in order to satisfy the Iraqi concern regarding the cleaning of Arvand Rood—an issue which is in fact outside the resolution—placed the issue of cleaning Arvand [words indistinct] August time-table and in the 4 point plan of 1 October 1988. However, Iraq continues to insist that cleaning is a part of cease-fire, and has refused to accept either of the two plans. This is not an attempt to reach a common understanding, rather it is a maneuver to impose an illogical and self-serving interpretation upon Iran and the United Nations.

Not only Iraq insists on placing the cleaning of Arvand Rood among the regulations of cease-fire, but also it has tried to have the river cleaned in contravention of the existing arrangements contained in the 1975 treaty of state frontiers and neighborly relations between Iran and Iraq. In fact, under the disguise of this illogical incorporation, Iraq seeks to undermine a valid international agremeent signed and ratified by the present regime in Iraq and duly registered with the secretary-general of the United Nations. That is, even in peace talks, Iraq continues to espouse the same expansionist aspirations for the attainment of which it launched a war of aggression against a neighboring country. Clearly Iraq must understand that what it could not achieve in the course of the war cannot be achieved in peace talks. International treaties are the cornerstones of international law and the stabling force in international relations. They cannot be unilateraly abrogated when convenient.

Another issue which Iraq introduced as an element of cease-fore during the first round of direct talks was unimpeded passage for Iraqi vessels in the Persian Gulf and even through Iranian territorial sea. It did not consider the suggestion made by the secretary-general "freedom of navigation in accordance with international law" as sufficient for its purpose and tried to impose—under the guise of reaching common understanding—its own self- serving interpretation, seeking to deprive the Islamic Republic of Iran of its universally recognized right of search and visit as long as peaceful relations between the two countries are not established. The logic that Iran must cease exercising its universally known rights during the time of cease-fire while Iraq continues to occupy parts of Iranian territory is a further illustration of the manner in which Iraq has exploited direct talks to attempt to impose its conditions, thereby pushing the talks into a stalemate.

Furthermore, as the secretary-general indicated in his statement of 8 August 1988 to the Security Council some provisions of the resolution do not require implementation by the parties. Rather, the secretary-general has been given the mandate to implement those provisions of the resolution, and is not in a position to negotiate the terms for their implementation with either Iran or Iraq. Some other provisions of the resolution do not have anything to do with the two parties: Paragraph 5 explicitly deals with third parties, and paragraph 8 of the resolution, in addition to Iran and Iraq, deals with other countries with which the secretary-general is mandated to consult.

In fact, what remains to be implemented by the parties are Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of the resolution. The 4-point plan of 1 October 1988 of the secretary-general is the implementation mechanism for these paragraphs with due consideration to concerns raised by Iraq outside the framework of the resolution. In order to show its good will and exercising maximum flexibility, the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the plan on the day it was presented officially by the secretary-general to the parties. We are prepared to implement that plan and cannot consider it as a new basis for negotiations or "reaching understanding."

While Iraq has failed to comply with most prominent element of the resolution and withdraw to the internationally recognized boundaries and refused to accept any proposal of the secretary-general, it has selected one element of the resolution—namely the question of POW's—and, with a view to undermining the resolution itself, has called for its implementation outside the framework of the resolution. However, what has actually occurred in the past one year proves the lack of good will on the part of Iraq even regarding this issue. The time-table which was presented by the secretary- general and accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran called for the release and repatriation of all prisoners of war within 90 days. Had Iraq accepted that proposal, all POW's would have been released and repatriated by 20 November 1988. Likewise, had Iraq accepted—like the Islamic Republic of Iran—the 4 point plan of 1 October 1988, all POW's would have been released and repatriated by the end of 1988. It is clear, therefore, that Iraq does not seek

the release and repatriation of POW's, rather it endeavors to undermine and disintegrate Resolution 598 and sabotage the efforts of the secretary-general.

Another illustration of the real intention of Iraq with regard to POW's is the number of registered Iranian POW's in Iraq. Iraqi officials claimed during the last days of the war that the number of POW's on two sides have become balanced. Recently, the governor of Basra has claimed that only during last year of the war, Iraq captured more that 25,000 Iranian prisoners. Non of these prisoners have been registered. In fact, while close to 50,000 Iraqi POW's have been registered in the Islamic Republic of Iran by ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], Iraq has allowed the registration of only 18,000 prisoners. Therefore, if Iraq has any real humanitarian concern about POW's, it has to bring the number of registered prisoners to a balance, since proportionality with regard to POW's has always been the Iraqi line. The International Committee of the Red Cross bears a special responsibility to convince and compel Iraq to register these prisoners and bring the number of registered POW's on two sides to a balance.

Close to year after the establishment of cease-fire, nothing has been achieved in the road to peace between Iran and Iraq. This brief assessment of the underlying reasons behind the stalemate clearly illustrate the fact that Iraq has failed to comply with a mandatory resolution of the Security Council adopted under Articles 39 and 40 of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Security Council has committed itself—under Paragraph 10 of Resolution 598—to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the resolution. Failure to do so will not only be a violation of the resolution by its authors, but also a violation of the trust the United Nations have placed on the Security Council as the primary organ responsible for maintenance of international peace and security. The institutional implications of political expediency on the part of some members of the council who have confused bilateral relations with their official function as members of the security council are grave, and the precedent it creates is disastrous.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remembers well the political moves and international clamor before July 26, 1988 over the necessity of acceptance and implementation of the resolution, and cannot ignore the negligence and silence of these countries since then. We consider such behavior a perfect example of the breach of international obligations and responsibilities. We also openly declare that if these countries have resorted to such levers in anticipation of a change in foreign policy orientation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they should rest assured that the principled positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran will never change. These positions are based on the rejection of domination and subordination and Islamic principles in external relations, and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its sovereignty over its lands and waters in talks on the implementation of the resolution.

Velayati on Anniversary of Accepting Resolution

NC1807074689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Our country's foreign minister Mr Velayati spoke to correspondents in Tabriz on the anniversary of Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He said: In the 1 year since the acceptance of Resolution 598 by Iran, Iraq has done nothing but obstruct, not cooperate, with the UN secretary general and create obstacles in the trend of the bilateral peace talks.

According to the Central News Unit, the foreign minister of our country then assessed and elaborated upon the trend of the peace talks and said: His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, accepted the UN Security Council Resolution 598 and snatched the enemy's most important propaganda weapon of calling Iran the warmonger. He added: After a lapse of 1 year since the acceptance of Resolution 598, only one clause has been implemented. Implementing the rest of its text has been postponed because of Iraq's obstructionism, such as on the dredging of the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab waterway] and the need for the release of Iraqi POWs, among other things.

The foreign minister mentioned the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the UN secretary general and the relese of three batches of Iraqi POWs in the past 3 months as gestures of Iran's goodwill in the peace talks.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has allowed the International Red Cross to register the 50,000 Iraqi POWs in Iran, but the Iraqi regime has only permitted the registration of 19,000 Iranian POWs with this organization.

Mr Velayati added: Now the Iraqi regime's insincerity concerning these talks has been proven to the people of the world. Regarding the propaganda by some Western media on Iran's recent moves to forge friendly ties with its northern neighbors, Velayati said: We have always said that our ties are forged without accepting any kind of domination.

Velayati on Lebanese Meeting, Talks With Iraq

NC1607062189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] The results of yesterday's meeting of the combatant Lebanese groups as well as the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598 were explained yesterday by our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, at a news conference for foreign and domestic correspondents.

Our foreign minister said at this news conference: During the meeting of the combatant Lebanese groups, it was agreed that a statement on which all groups agree should be prepared. The main axes of this document are the groups' efforts in the struggle against world arrogance,

against Zionism, and against Michel 'Awn's illegal government. He added: There is a significant and fundamental problem between the revolutionary Hizballah movement and Amal. It was primarily through the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria that the extent of these differences was reduced and both sides reached areement on the major and shared objectives.

In answer to a question on the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598, Mr Velayati said: These talks are at an impasse because the main part of this resolution has not yet been implemented as the Iraqi regime is not yet prepared to withdraw its troops to international borders. This refusal by the Iraqi Government has led to the failure of the talks. He said that Jan Eliasson will probably visit Tehran and Baghdad to break the stalemate in the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598.

Justice Minister on Constitution

LD1607165889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jul 89

["First Part" of interview with Justice Minister Hasan Habibi, member of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, by the manager of the social group of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date, place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you dear listeners, brothers and sisters. The 28th of July will be one of the most significant dates in our country's history. On that day, in addition to the presidential elections, the amended constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], will be put to a referendum and the people can express their views. [passage omitted]

Dr Hasan Hibibi, the honorable minister of justice and a member of the management board of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, is with us to put us more in the picture about the changes made in the Constitution and the motive behind this work. We shall enjoy listening to Dr Habibi's views in several sessions. As a first question I would like to ask Dr Habibi to explain what was the main motive for the reappraisal and amendment of the Constitution, and what were the necessities which made His Holiness the Imam and the country's officials consider reappraising the Constitution?

[Habibi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Each country has a constitution, which includes its basic laws. But this is some kind of international law; and international laws, no matter how carefully and meticulously they are prepared, encounter some problems when they are implemented and sometimes their meanings might be confusing. About the Constitution of the IRI, in addition to the executive issues of every country, one must note that this law, in some aspects, is unique and we can rarely find something similar to it in the world. And those who compiled this law established the first Islamic republic. There was no practical experience in the world about running a country on the basis of these laws. In addition to that, those involved in the revolution, who were put in charge of the country's executive matters after the revolution, did not have any so-called experience inherited from their predecessors. They were not the people who had ruled generation after generation and had not been involved in executive affairs, that is, in the government.

It is therefore natural that they had to bring stability to this system through practice; and it was in view of this fact that some shortcomings in the implementation of that the Constitution should be amended. This sort of affairs were observed. These shortcomings led to the idea reappraisal takes place all over the world.

During the past few days, the radio and television have informed our dear people on some of these issues. In almost every country of the world such reappraisals take places once every 7, 8, or 10 years. This reappraisal of our Constitution, in view of the points I mentioned, should thus be interpreted as something completely normal and natural.

But why did we undertake the task at this particular juncture? Within the next few minutes I shall read a letter from His Holiness the imam, in which His Holiness ordered setting up the reappraisal council. As I read either all or part of the letter it becomes clear that several years after the implementation of the Constitution, it was felt that there were some problems in practice. We were, however, engaged with the war and the people's overall resistance against global arrogance which had attacked Iran. At that stage we had to concentrate all our efforts on our independence and freedom. We were defending the sanctity of Islam and the country's territorial integrity. It was thus better at the time not to start another important matter, which might have taken some of the officials' time and the concentration of our people.

One of the reasons for our postponing the difficulties—those of which we were aware during the past few years in the country's executive affairs and which had stemmed from some articles of the Constitution—was the problem of the war. But when His Holiness the imam felt that the issue of the war was removed for the time being and realized that we should begin some other essential work, he decided that one of these essential tasks was reappraising the Constitution. Particularly after last year's developments, which raised the issue of the country's future regarding the leadership of the Iranian Islamic society and the ideological leadership of Islam's global revolution, His Holiness was concerned about the country's future days, months, and years. His holiness therefore came to the conclusion that it would be better to raise this issue during his lifetime so as to determine the leadership issue in the Constitution, as his holiness desired. In the message which he graciously

addressed to his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, he said the following: On the basis of 10 years of direct and practical experience in administering the country, most officials and experts in the workings of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran are of the opinion that although the Constitution possesses very good and eternal strengths, it also has some shortcomings and weaknesses to which less attention had been paid as a result of the turbulent atmosphere in the early days of the revolution's victory and because of a lack of precise knowledge about the society's administrative intricacies. Fortunately, the issue of (?amending) the Constitution became a subject of discussion in various circles after a few years. The removal of the Constitution's shortcomings is an unavoidable necessity for our Islamic and revolutionary society. And a delay in that task may well lead to bitter consequences and effects for the country and the revolution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] in addition to your administrative capacity, responsibility, you also have special academic expertise in legal matters. For that reason, I (?would like to ask a theoretical) question. There seems to be two basic opinions of the Constitution. The first states that the Constitution, because it is the Constitution and the country's foundation, must be a stable thing by virtue of the fact that it expresses general values which must be observed in a country—the basic principles. It must remain unchanging and it is other laws which must be changed. The Constitution must be drawn up in such a way that it does not permit changing itself. There is another opinion which maintains that the Constitution, like other laws, will, with the passage of time and as a result of develoments in social conditions, need change; that is to say the Constitution, too, although it is the fundamental law of countries and the law on which all other laws are based, does not escape the need for amendment and change. [passage omitted] If you do not mind, could you discuss this question?

[Habibi] Let me say this: theoretically those two opinions you suggested exist. That is to say, in the classroom, one position holds that the Constitution, in view of that very expression 'constitutional' must, like anything constitutional or fundamental, remain unchanging so that a construction may be built on that foundation. And ordinary laws, again as the word suggests, because they are ordinary, lead to no anxiety or worry if they are changed. It is correct from a theoretical and semantic point to say that about constitutional laws and ordinary laws. [passage omitted]

Is there any country, the system of which is based on constitutional law, which has been able to put that opinion into practice? In other words, is there a country in which there has been no change in the Constitution? There is no such country. Why? In the distant past, societies had an unchanging and stable life. That is to say, new needs did not come into existence and new issues were not raised. It was natural that the people and the society as a whole thought that if they made certain points the basis of their life and if they held that basis stable...[sentence as heard] And that was in fact the case in practice.

However, when that basis itself changes as a result of development or when altogether new points come into existence and the basis is not adequate, what must we do in that case? [passage omitted] We must either leave the Constitution in its out-of-date situation—and it is possible to do that in some instances—in any case, we must either leave it as it is or, if we create some new principles which have led to it being out-of-date, (?amendments must be made to reconsolidate) the Constitution. [passage omitted]

There are two points here. First, effort must be made so that the Constitution is changed as infrequently as possible. [passage omitted] The other point is this: If we put a greater capacity for interpretation to work and interpret the Constitution word for word, that may lead to us seeing that a certian point no longer answers our needs and we need to change it. We may then encounter a slight obstacle and if we persist with wanting to remove that obstacle, we have no other way. [passage omitted] We must then amend the Constitution.

One of the duties of constitution councils, such as the Council of Guardians, is to undertake that interpretation and (?if it senses) that the interpretation can be undertaken in the long-term on the basis of the Constitution as it stands, it is better that they should do so. There is another point about which we will, God willing, talk at greater length later. However, I must say here that in that very constitution which changes (?that theory still holds to a point.) That is, in many constitutions which speak about amendments, it is declared that this and that point are unamendable. We, too, in the new (?principle) which we have foreseen for the amendment of the Constitution, have declared clearly certian issues are again unamendable; that is, the things which are the basis of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the things for which our people carried out a revolution, for which our people were martyred and as a result of which our people voted for this Constitution. Those points will remain unchanging.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Habibi] [passage indistinct] On the discussions between the Council of Guardians of the Majlis, the government, or the executive branch, His Eminence the imam categorically decided that a committee for discerning expediency should be formed. This has [words indistinct] in the new Constitution, thanks to the imam's guidance, and under the title of Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System, in Article 112 [words indistinct]

Therefore the imam himself (?temporarily) solved a problem which existed in legislation, through the formation of the Council for the Disarmament of the Interests.

However, other problems remained which were solved, sometimes through guidance, sometimes through decisions made during meetings by the heads of the three branches [words indistinct].

Regarding the executive branch [words indistinct] the present Constitution, ratified in 1358 [1979-80], which remains in force until the referendum [words indistinct]. One is the president who [words indistinct] according to Article 113, which is the first article concerning the executive branch [words indistinct]. According to Article 113, after the leader, the presidency is the highest official position in the country; he is the head of the executive branch, except in matters directly concerning the leader. [passage indistinct]

The second (?part) is entitled the prime minister and the ministers. According to Article 134, the prime minister is the head of the cabinet and supervises the ministers. [passage omitted]

According to Article 134 the prime minister determines government policy and Article 113 states that the president is the head of the executive branch. [Words indistinct] the president presents the prime minister to the Majlis for a vote of confidence. Then the prime minister presents the ministers to the president. That is where the problem starts. That is, the president must accept a minister before he can present him to the Majlis. After the minister is (?appointed) if he is to be dismissed, the prime minister must receive the president's consent for the dismissal. [passage omitted]

Another problem concerns the judiciary. The task of the judiciary is two-fold. One is that we want to (?prepare laws) to manage the affairs. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Habibi] Let me say, in this discussion that we are having, this discussion falls into the (?legal) category. That is, in reality our discussion was not [words indistinct] and still there was this problem. That is, if we ever would want to plan for expansion in a limited time [words indistinct] and fast, then there is a need for a decision to be made in a very short time. In addition to this decision being taken in a short time, we must also be able to quickly carry it out. And for this, there should be a single (?command structure) so that all those who fall under its authority, can carry out the task. This discussion concerning the concentration of speed [tamarkoz-e shetabat] belongs to a later stage.

We have (?problems) in this present situation which we wanted to solve. And in general, we also have difficulties in day-to-day decisionmaking—For instance, in the judicial branch, The same applies to the legislative branch. And there are certain points in connection with the centralization of the voice and Vision which are similar. That is, there, too, there is a six-member council which does not properly allow the management of the Voice and Vision to make decisions. These three-sided points concerning centralization of the management of the Voice and Vision were outstanding issues and we had to find solutions to them.

Of course, this point you raised about centralization aiming at expansion, this is a point which has been to an extent—in this reappraisal which has taken place, in addition to the point concerning normal centralization, which we solved—it has, up to a point been forecast in the legislative branch—of course, in a very subtle way and in a way which would not endanger these popular institutions and so that the Majlis would maintain its power and strength.

[Correspondent] I thank you very much for attending and I should tell the dear listeners that the discussions we are having will continue in the coming days and we shall deal in a more detailed and comprehensive way with the reforms and changes which have been made to the Constitution and we shall be looking at the motivations and reasons behind the revisions and how these would potentially affect the administration of the country.

Once again I thank Mr. Habibi and say goodbye to the dear listeners. God willing, I shall be at your service in the coming days.

Pakistan

6 Injured, 2 Houses Damaged in Lahore Bomb Blast

BK1707093489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] There was a powerful bomb blast in Lahore's Railway Loco Colony this morning; two workers' houses were damaged and six persons, including a child, were injured. The injured were immediately taken to New Hospital in Lahore, where they are reported to be out of danger.

The federal minister for railways, Haji Zafar Ali Khan Leghari, and the minister of state for railways, Farooq A. Azam, have expressed sympathy for the affected families and have directed [the authorities] to give 5,000 rupees to each of the affected families.

A railway spokesman told Radio Pakistan's Lahore representative that an inquiry has been instituted to find out the cause of the blast.

Delhi Radio Notes Air-to-Air Missile Test

BK0407081489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan has successfully tested an air-to-air missile. According to a Karachi-based newspaper, the test was conducted in the Sonmiani coastal area. The newspaper reports say, the indigenously developed missile has a range of 10 km. Its large-scale production is likely to begin soon.

Pakistan has received about 2,000 Sidewinder-B missiles from the United States. A report says that the Pakistan Aeronautical complex at Kamra has been successfully modifying this missile to raise it to the level of Sidewinder-J missile.

Bhutto Returns From 'Successful' European Trip

BK1607022389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad last night after successful visits to Britain and France. Federal ministers, advisers, special assistants, members of parliament, and officials welcomed her at the airport.

During her stay in Britain, the prime minister held in-depth talks with British leaders on matters of mutual interest and regional and international issues, including the Afghanistan problem. Her talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher were described as highly successful because both leaders share identical views on all matters.

In France, the prime minister attended the celebrations to mark the bicentenary of the French Revolution and held talks with French leaders on bilateral and international issues. She also held talks with many world leaders, including UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who were present in Paris in connection with the celebrations.

More on Visit by India's Prime Minister Gandhi

Leaders Differ on Kashmir Plebiscite

BK1707100689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, July 17 (AFP)—The thorny issue of Kashmir once again emerged as stumbling block in the normalisation of India-Pakistan relations when Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ruled out a plebiscite in the disputed territory.

He told a joint news conference here, "the question of plebiscite in Kashmir, from our point of view, is out."

For India the Simla Accord reached between his late mother Indira Gandhi and the Pakistani leader's late father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1972 "replaces all other agreements," Mr. Gandhi added.

But Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto quickly intervened to say, "we have a differing perception on Kashmir" and disagreed with the Indian interpretation of the accord.

Pakistan has sought a solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions envisaging a plebiscite to enable the people of the Indian-administered territory to express their right of self-determination. [passage omitted]

Mr. Gandhi observed that "there had been several elections in Kashmir and the people have expressed their mandate."

Ms. Bhutto recalled the longstanding differences over the Kashmir issue on which the two countries have fought three wars in less than 40 years.

Troops in the region positioned along a line of control drawn after the first conflict in 1948 that split Kashmir have also been involved in bloody localised clashes.

Nuclear, Kashmir Issues

BK1707111289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that both India and Pakistan are determined to continue their efforts for the establishment of peace, gradual reduction of tension, and solving the problems between them. She said this while addressing a joint news conference with the Indian prime minister in Islamabad this morning at the end of his brief visit to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Ms Benazir Bhutto has removed the Indian prime minister's apprehensions about Pakistan's nuclear program and reiterated that Pakistan is against nuclear proliferation. She said: We are desirous of a solution to this problem, which would herald a better future for humanity. The prime minister rejected Mr Rajiv Gandhi's allegation that Pakistan's nuclear program is under military control. Rajiv Gandhi reiterated that India is against a regional solution of nuclear issues and supports a comprehensive solution to this issue through practical programs.

The Indian prime minister welcomed the signing of the agreement by India and Pakistan agreeing not to attack each other's nuclear installations and said it has proven extremely effective. He said: Now, we are expecting its ratification and desire subsequent steps that will reduce tension in the region.

On allegations of Pakistani involvement in the situation in Indian Punjab, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan is against interference in the internal affairs of others. She said Pakistan has assured the Government of India that it is neither sending arms to India nor is it assisting in sending intruders.

On Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Rajiv Gandhi reiterated India's earlier stand on not holding a referendum there, whereas Ms Benazir Bhutto said this issue has yet to be settled between the two countries. She said the viewpoints of the two countries are different, and that these differences were spelled out in the Simla agreement.

Bhutto Details Issues Covered

BK1707165089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The prime ministers of Pakistan and India have said they have the greatest hope that the two countries will be able to solve their problems and divert their resources toward improving their people. They

were addressing a j
today at the end joint press conference in Islamabad
working visit to Pal the Indian prime minister's brief
kistan. [passage omitted]

The Pakistan prime
control talks betweee minister favored the idea of arms
n the two countries. [passage omitted]

About allegations o
tion in the Indianf Pakistani involvement in the situa-
Pakistan has assure Punjab, Ms Benazir Bhutto said
not sending any ared the Indian Government that it is
that country. She ms or assisting in the infiltration of
held discussions at pointed out that the two sides have
make border patrol the home secretaries level on ways to
ling more effective. [passage omitted]

About the dispute b
withdrawal of Indiabetween India and Sri Lanka over the
Bhutto said she han forces from the island, Ms Benazir
bearing on SAAHad discussed the situation and its
Regional Cooperat RC [South Asian Association for
She said that while ion] with the Indian prime minister.
Lankan issue, we e India had its own position on the Sri
The Pakistani forei xpressed our concern in this matter.
shortly, while consugn minister will be visiting Sri Lanka
will continue. ultations with other SAARC countries

The Indian prime n
a ceremonial send minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was given
Delhi. The prime n off when he left Islamabad for New
off. Mr Rajiv Gan minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, saw him
dhi is now in New Delhi.

Joint Declaration Announced

BK1807031089 Isl amabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The prime r
announced that rela ministers of Pakistan and India have
developed afresh an tions between the two countries will be
respect for each othd strengthened on the basis of mutual
nonaggression and er's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and
joint declaration rel noninterference. This was stated in a
ing the Indian prim eased in Islamabad last evening follow-
e minister's visit to Pakistan.

Benazir Bhutto an
agreement provides d Rajiv Gandhi agreed that the Simla
of bilateral relatio a solid base for the gradual promotion
issues, including th ns and the solution of all outstanding
e Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The two leaders
relating to the m also agreed that the pending issues
agreement on not odalities of implementation of the
lations should be attacking each other's nuclear instal-
Indian prime mir contained in the near future. The
that India has fina nister told his Pakistani counterpart
and it wants to se lized the arrangements in this regard
e its ratification as early as possible.

Benazir Bhutto an
of talks at defense d Rajiv Gandhi reviewed the progress
Siachen issue and secretary and army officer-level on the
the 17th of last m ratified the joint declaration issued on
talks. While takin onth following the defense secretaries'
g notice of these discussions, the two prime ministers directed that the Pakistani and Indian defense secretaries at their next talks work for a comprehensive settlement based on redeployment of armed forces so as to reduce the chances of confrontation and prevent the use of force. They directed that the army officials should continue their talks to determine the future positions of the armed forces. The next army officials meeting is scheduled for next month.

The declaration said that the two prime ministers held a detailed exchange of views on the current international situation as well as on what steps should be taken by Pakistan and India to normalize the relations between them and to further promote the cooperation between the two countries. They took notice of the recent positive changes in the international situation which have helped reduce tension and confrontation and agreed to support the process by mutual cooperation.

Views were exchanged on the situation relating to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and it was hoped that the organization will resume its work soon.

Reviewing the bilateral relations, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction over the agreements on cooperation in the fields of railways, communications, civil aviation, border security arrangements, and prevention of illegal activities on the borders. They agreed that consultations between Pakistan and India at appropriate levels should continue on a regular basis so as to further promote their cooperation in all fields. In this context, they suggested that the surveyor generals of the two countries should resume their talks on Sir Creek and maritime boundaries.

Benazir Bhutto and Rajiv Gandhi expressed their satisfaction on finalization of modalities for implementing the agreement on avoidance of double taxation on incomes from air transport between the two countries and on the bilateral cultural agreement.

Rajiv Gandhi invited Benazir Bhutto to visit India which was accepted. The date for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Ministerial Commission Meets

BK1807090189 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The third meeting of Pakistan-India Joint Ministerial Commission began in Islamabad to expand relations and cooperation on the basis of equality, common interest, and mutual benefit and respect. The 2-day meeting will review and finalize recommendations and proposals of the four subcommissions which met in the federal capital yesterday.

The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, is leading Pakistan's delegation, while his Indian counterpart, Mr Narasimha Rao, is leading his country's side. Earlier, both the foreign ministers held a meeting and discussed matters relating to bilateral and common interests.